

Conservation Commission Regular Meeting April 14, 2016

The meeting opened at 7:10 PM with the following in attendance:

MEMBERS:

Melissa Leonard
Jimmy Ayash
Christine Yannielli
Shagufta Zahid
Felipe Flores
Brian Vaugh
Jim Dunn

OTHERS:

1. Call the meeting to order and pledge of allegiance.
2. VOTED unanimously on a motion by Christine Yannielli and approved by Jimmy Ayash to **APPROVE** the minutes of the last meeting of 3/10/16.

New Business

1. Discussion: Reviewed several upcoming outreach opportunities relating to Earth Day and decided to participate in the following:
Some or all of the Conservation Commission members will attend the Naugatuck Earth Day Mayor of the Day at 10:00 AM at town hall on 4/23.
Some or all Conservation Commission members will attend the Naugatuck River Festival on April 30th at Linden Park. We will have a table and will have information to distribute (to be developed). Melissa will contact the event planner to ask if there is a fee to participate. We also discussed having a sign so attendees will be able to easily understand the Conservation Commission's mission and goals.
The Conservation Commission will also have a table at the Naugatuck Earth Day celebration on the green on June 5th. Members will indicate the times they are available to man the table and try to have two commission members present for each time period.
2. Discussion: Naugatuck Water Company Spring Planting event. Melissa reported that the Water Co. has already chosen a site for their spring planting but since they will also be doing an autumn planting, we may want to offer suggestions for planting locations at that time.
3. Discussion: Members reviewed the mission statements from several towns in our area and agreed to write a one-page mission / goal statement for the Conservation Commission and to send this by email to all CC members. At our next meeting we will consolidate this into one statement to be used for many purposes including as a hand-out at the aforementioned outreach events.
4. Mayor Hess has taken the Eversource Clean Energy Pledge and has asked the commission to act as a Clean Energy Task Force. The commission supports the idea but wants to make sure there will be no overlap with the Renewable Energy Committee. It was suggested that this task force could be a subgroup of this commission. Melissa will ask a representative from Eversource to give our commission a presentation at the June meeting in order to be prepared to provide the mayor and burgesses with appropriate information.
5. The commission now has a mailbox in the town hall copy room.
6. Discussion: In order to gain an understanding of the activities of the other commissions in the borough, especially those whose work may impact the Conservation Commission's mission and goals. Brian Vaugh, Felipe Flores and Jim Dunn will plan to meet monthly to review the minutes of the Inland/Wetland Commission, the Zoning Commission, the Planning Commission and the Board of Mayor & Burgesses and will report back at subsequent meetings on any items of interest. As follow up, one or more CC members may attend the Board of Mayor & Burgesses meetings to

present any items of interest that involve our commission as well as update this group on the commission's activities.

Old Business

1. Several CC members attended the recent meeting of the Parks Commission and listened to Len Yannielli's presentation on Gunntown Preserve and to his presentation on the revised agreement with the Wingman Project. The Parks Commission voted on and agreed with this agreement.
2. Melissa talked with Sandy from the Street Department and told her of commission members' interest in participating in the street drain labeling project. The labels are being ordered. Melissa will present more information as it becomes available.
3. Discussion: Christine distributed information and discussed concerns regarding fracking waste. She will contact someone from Sierra Club to make a presentation to the commission and possibly to the Board of Mayor & Burgesses.
4. Discussion: Members discussed the last walk and recommendations regarding standing water at Baummer's Pond. Melissa will talk with the mayor on the process we should be using to make recommendations. Our next walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, at the Mulberry Reservoir.
5. Discussion: Our Facebook page is now up and we were all encouraged to review it and add to it.

Next meeting will be on May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.