

Town of Wethersfield Conservation Commission  
Minutes – February 11, 2009

Chairman Christoph Geiss called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room. Members present were Ingrid Boelhouwer, William Knapp, Robert Pulford, Ralph Moyer and James Schumaker. Matthew Forrest and Christopher Shepard of the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center were also in attendance.

A. Approval of Minutes.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of January 14, 2009.

B. Report by Christopher Shepard.

1. Mr. Shepard distributed a memo from Ms. Bagley on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department to the Town Manager regarding the Beaver Brook Linear Park (BBLP) proposal. The proposal will be an agenda item at the Town Council Meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009 at Silas Deane Middle School.
2. Mr. Shepard distributed a copy of the Planning, Acquisition and Management Guidelines for the Town of Mansfield.

C. Report by Matthew Forrest.

Wilkus Property - Negotiations between the Town and the property owners continue for the purchase of the property.

D. New Commission Member Search.

Mr. Knapp will contact Mr. Baldoni regarding his interest in serving on the Commission.

E. Open Space Management Initiative.

Motion was made and seconded to table any discussion until the March meeting. The principal reason for the motion was to give Commission members time to examine the Town of Mansfield's document.

F. New Business.

1. Wethersfield Heritage Trail Day.

Ms. Boelhouwer and Mr. Schumaker gave a report of the planning session held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Pitkin Community Center. Plans are still incomplete and Ms. Boelhouwer will attend the next planning meeting to be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made and seconded to have a booth at the Community Center on April 25, 2009 between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., which will be staffed by Mr. Pulford and Mr. Schumaker.

2. Connecticut Trail Day Participation.

This state wide activity will take place on June 6, 2009 or June 7, 2009. After a discussion a motion was made and seconded that the Wethersfield Conservation Commission will agree to host a CTD event on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Mr. Schumaker volunteered to organize a hike from the Community Center to Cove Park. The WCC intent to participate must be in the form of an application to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, and to be submitted no later than February 16<sup>th</sup> for complete coverage of the event. Motion was passed unanimously.

3. Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance.

Ms. Boelhouwer and Mr. Schumaker attended a reception given by CCBY at the State Capital on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The organization focuses on bicycle and pedestrian advocacy in central Connecticut. One of their goals is to shift transportation funds to programs that improve biking and walking. Some of their success stories are getting bike racks on CT Transit buses, getting a 3' safe passing distance law enacted, getting bike lanes in area towns, and securing dedicated trail funding. The group is asking for WCC member support of CT Senate Bill 735 that addresses a comprehensive approach to transportation.

4. New Initiatives.

Ms. Boelhouwer submitted a list of new initiatives for Commission consideration. Due to the lateness of the hour, these suggestions will be discussed at future meetings.

G. Adjournment.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Next meeting to be held 3/11/09.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph O. Moyer, Jr.  
Secretary pro diem