

NORWALK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 17, 2006

Attendance: Anne Cagnina, Chairman; Beth Ackerman; Matt Caputo; Marny Smith; D. Seeley Hubbard (6:35)

Staff: Alexis Cherichetti, Senior Environmental Officer; Sarah Rettger, Conservation Assistant

Others: Hal Alvord, Director of Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

DISCUSSION

**** MS. SMITH MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO CONSIDER ITEM C.**

**** MR. CAPUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

c) Review of flooding and drainage issues within City

Ms. Smith explained that she had asked Mr. Linnartz of the Department of Public Works for an explanation of drainage concerns raised at previous meetings. Mr. Linnartz had produced a map showing the locations of major drainage problems within the City, and Mr. Alvord was at the meeting to answer questions from the commissioners.

Mr. Alvord answered specific questions about drainage problems in a number of locations. He detailed the financial and maintenance issues the department faces. He also said that the department would be developing long-term plans based on the results of a drainage study being conducted by Tighe & Bond.

There was a discussion of the City's budgeting process and state and federal funding sources.

Ms. Smith and Ms. Cagnina thanked Mr. Alvord for answering the Commission's questions.

a) Review of Open Space Plan language

Ms. Cherichetti reviewed the Commission's previous work on the city's open space. She said the mayor had shared some concerns, especially regarding the possible reactions of owners of "first priority" and "second priority" open space. She said the mayor wanted it to be clear that the city has no intention of acquiring the properties through eminent domain; he wants it to be clear that any sales to the city would be voluntary.

Ms. Cherichetti reviewed the existing draft of the conservation plan. The commissioners suggested possible changes to the language.

b) Public Education projects

Ms. Cherichetti said the commissioners had suggested different forms of public outreach, including special meetings, press releases, and brochures.

It was agreed to add a public education item to the October 24 meeting agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

** MS. SMITH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

** MR. CAPUTO SECONDED THE MOTION.

** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

