

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission  
City of Milford  
November 18, 2008

1. Roll Call – Bill Poutray, Carol Dunn, Vincent Piselli, Carolyn Greer, Maureen Mauro and Danielle Bercury.
2. Review of previous meeting's minutes – Maureen Mauro made a correction to the October minutes prior to being approved regarding the Conservation Commission website. She spoke to Mayor Richetelli regarding the website and he suggested that the commission send proposed changes to his office for review and then contact the IT department to see if it is possible to make the changes. After this change was made, the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. Public Comments – no public comments.
4. Old Business
  - a) Downs House/Property
    - 1) Bill handed out a draft of a letter he composed on behalf of the Milford Conservation Commission supporting the sale of the 1.8 acres of open space behind the Downs House to Torry Corporation (owner of Milford Hospital). The letter included several points that had been discussed at the October meeting that should be considered regarding the sale of the property. Vincent Piselli asked that the second point on Page Two of the letter be changed to read "purchase and/or management of open space" rather than "purchase of open space". With that change, the commission all agreed the letter should be sent to Mayor Richetelli with copies forwarded to Planning and Zoning and the Board of Alderman. Maureen did check on the upcoming Board of Alderman agenda and was informed that the Downs House/Property item has not been placed on the Board of Alderman agenda yet.

Carolyn Greer handed out copies of the by-laws of Milford Historic District. The regulations surrounding the historic district do not apply to the property around the Downs House; they only apply to the actual structure. It was agreed that the letter does not need to be sent to the Milford Historical District Commission at this time. Also, because the Conservation Commission's purview involves only open space issues, and not buildings, the commission takes no official position in the possible sale of the Downs House.

b) Student Conservation Association

- 1) Vincent gave an overview of the current SCA plans. The Connecticut office for SCA is in Stamford. Their national headquarters are in New Hampshire. The SCA is looking to expand their proposed program to also include Bridgeport and New Haven. Vincent said there will be a Mayor's Initiative Meeting in February to further discuss plans which would include mayors from Stamford, Milford, Bridgeport and New Haven. He will be attending this meeting and will get details of where and when this meeting will take place for the other commission members. Vincent has also been speaking to Mark Lofthouse about the cabin in Eisenhower Park.
  - 2) Maureen Mauro meeting with Mayor Richetelli –The city is using the study done on the park and determining where to use the existing grant money of \$350,000 for the park. Either repair the bridge, repair the building, eradicate invasive species, etc. Bill reported he attended a meeting with representatives of various city departments and the Connecticut DEP regarding Eisenhower Park. The DEP is developing an environmental survey of the park to address issues regarding groundwater, bridges, dam erosion. A report on this survey will be issued by January.
- c) Beaverbrook – Carol Dunn confirmed that the Regional Water Authority sold Beaverbrook to Kingdom Life Church on 4/27/01 with the stipulation that the property cannot be developed and that the City of Milford will assume maintenance for the property. The question was again raised about the Barth Fund which states that this fund be used for Beaverbrook by the Conservation Commission. The commission members discussed the possibility of an SCA crew with a defined mission be involved at Beaverbrook and possibly Yale Forestry getting involved.
- d) Conservation Commission Office – Mike DeGrego has looked over the office and has asked permission from the commission members to take an inventory of the office and then decide how to organize the office. Everyone agreed that this would be a great idea and Bill gave Maureen the keys to the office so Mike can proceed with the inventory.
- e) Furniture Row – Carol Dunn reported that the remediation process has begun at the furniture row property.

## 5. New Business

- a) Cornerstone Christian Church – 701 North Street – The commission members reviewed plans for a proposed church to be built at 701 North Street bordering the Orchards Golf Course property. It is currently private property, 7 to 8 acres (43,560 square feet). In order to build this church, a large group of apple trees would have to be taken down. Carol Dunn spoke to Mary Rose at Inlands Wetlands about this property and she told Carol there are no wetland issues. There were several questions raised about these plans:

- 1) Is the property sold?
- 2) What is the special exception language pertaining to this property?
- 3) Could this property possibly be expanded as green space especially since it right across the street from Eisenhower Park?
- 4) Is it possible that the plans for this church could be scaled back?
- 5) Is the Tree Commission aware of these proposed plans?
- 6) Is this property viable as farm land?

Danielle will call David Sulkis to get a copy of the application and find out about the time line for this proposal.

- b) Danielle brought a brochure from a workshop she attended sponsored by The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities regarding agriculture.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Berberich  
Minutes not approved by the commission