

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Conservation Commission—City of Milford  
June 16, 2009**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**—Bill Poutray, Oden Seaholm, Carolyn Greer, Carol Dunn, Dan Drago, Vincent Piselli and Danielle Bercury. Guests: Joe Woyciesjes, Deanna Baker and Mark Lurie from the Connecticut chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association.
2. **Review Minutes**—The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and accepted unanimously.
3. **Public Comment**—Joe Woyciesjes and Mark Lurie of the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) discussed their plan for cleaning, clearing and rebuilding 9 to 11 miles of trails in Eisenhower Park. They handed out an information sheet with accompanying maps of Eisenhower Park to the commission. NEMBA has planned a meeting on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Eisenhower Park to discuss the project.

Mark Lurie (NEMBA Vice President) said that as part of the project they would teach mountain bikers how to be “trail ambassadors” for specific trails. This would involve riding a specific trail, taking pictures, reporting on what they encounter and providing trail maintenance. Mark said there are trail ambassador reports on their website. Their overall goal is to create sustainable, “shared use” trails for hiking, biking, walking and horses. The association would offer trail maintenance programs repairing erosion problems, and creating a long term plan for trail upkeep.

A mention was made of a Connecticut state statute—CT 52-557 which is the landowners recreational use law.

Mark said NEMBA is associated with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) which is sponsored by Subaru. IMBA is planning a demonstration of trail building in EP, August 13-16. They will select a specific area and hold trail building seminars.

A question was raised about permits being requested through the city as well as permits regarding the wetlands and who would have to sign off on this type of project. Joe said they have not yet applied for any permits, but will apply to repair some of the damaged trails. Joe said their plan is to present this to Inland Wetlands section by section and have contacted the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission and DPW.

The Conservation Commission has requested a written plan with both short-term and long-term goals, techniques to be used, and descriptions of the proposed “shared use” trails. Vincent suggested a layered map to help explain the project.

Dan asked Mark about any projects that NEMBA has completed in the area. Mark said that ten years ago, NEMBA built the red and white trails in West Rock Park in New Haven. They have also completed trails in Wadsworth State Park, Mianus River Park in Greenwich, Collis P. Huntington State Park, Aspetuck Valley trail (17 mile trail between Huntington and Easton) and George S. Waldo State Park in Southbury.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a) ***Open Space Walks***—Dan Drago will finalize the list of open space walks within the week and email to everyone on the commission. Danielle said once she receives the list, she will compose an article for the newspaper.
- b) ***Furniture Row***—Carol reported that the remediation process began on June 4<sup>th</sup> and samples will be taken in 30 to 90 days to monitor this process. Carol will also take some pictures of this project.
- c) ***Earth Day***—Vincent reported that 350 people attended Earth Day and that work was completed in seven parks. He said that 97 truck tires were pulled out of Eisenhower Park. Vincent will put pictures on the website that were taken by him and the Foran High School photo club.
- d) ***Housatonic River Dock***—Carol reported the Milford Conservation Commission received a letter from the DEP regarding a Housatonic River dock. Carol will follow this project. Carol also reported that boxes for monofilament line will be placed at Buckingham Avenue and at the Audubon. There are only 25 boxes being provided for the entire state of Connecticut.
- e) ***Conservation Award***—Carolyn Greer mentioned an idea she had about presenting a conservation award to an appropriate person in Milford. She felt this would be a good way to raise awareness of the need for conservation of natural resources. Bill asked Carolyn to work on some ideas for this.
- f) ***Budget Cut***—Bill reported that the Conservation Commission budget has been reduced by \$200.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 21, Conference Room A.**

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berberich

Minutes not approved by the Commission.