

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
February 14, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING at 7:35 P.M.

**MUNICIPAL CENTER
ROOM 302**

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: M. Burris, L. Lozier, L. Noble, D. Tyrrell, J. Sepko, R. Paz

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Art Marino, Technical Advisor, Hanah Paz, Mike Moschitto

STAFF: M. DeVoe, Town Planner, R. Morante, Town Council Liaison

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

There were no guest presentations

III. MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS/ CHAIR REPORT

There was no report.

IV. MINUTES

a. January 10, 2024

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2024 as amended.

Seconded by: L. Linel **All in Favor 6 to 0 Motion Passes**

Under item V.b, a repeat sentence appeared that was also stated under item V.a. Its inclusion under V.b. was not necessary.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Tomasso Nature Park

• Turtle Nesting Signs

The Park is closed for the winter months, will reopen late March-early April. J. Sepko reported there are now two beaver hutches. J. Sepko inquired about a new swale that runs off the landfill in the direction of the Park. M. DeVoe reported that it was part of the designed closure of the landfill and stated he would report on the matter at the next meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the repair of the Park fence in proximity to the Perron Road cul-de-sac. M. DeVoe stated that the Commission had received a quote for that service last year but did not have the funds to complete the project. The Commission asked M. DeVoe to forward a maintenance request to the appropriate department. M. DeVoe stated that he would discuss the matter with the Town Manager.

b. Paderewski Park Pond

- **List of action items**
- **Pad Park Pond Report**

M. DeVoe discussed the concept of applying a conservation easement over the Pond at Paderewski Park. There was some confusion as to what that would accomplish. M. DeVoe indicated that the action would constitute an effort to increase awareness of the pond and its value as a wildlife management area. M. DeVoe provided a draft easement document that he said had been delivered to the Town Manager with a recommendation that it be reviewed further by the Town Attorney. An easement area would have to be defined and it may be that unofficial metes and bounds will have to be used if approved by a legal authority. The reason for this is that we lack the manpower to provide a clean survey of the easement area. This would be a cost saving measure. He also proposed a signage project that would go along with the new designation. The signs would concentrate on the rules and regulations of the park, but with an emphasis on the pond area itself.

L. Lozier lamented the lack of enforcement and while all realize the importance of enforcement, the reality is that a police presence is not likely; however, a part-time park patrol may be able to spend more time patrolling the pond during fishing season to provide an enforcement presence. M. DeVoe to follow up with the Town Manager.

c. Sustainable CT

- **Recommended Commission Action**

The Commission discussed the Sustainable CT program and decided that it would be worthwhile to hear from the organization directly to see how the Town of Plainville might benefit perhaps from activities that they are already pursuing. M. DeVoe will reach out to Sustainable CT to see if they are willing to appear at a regular meeting and discuss their program. They can also advise how Plainville might benefit as well as discussing the resources needed on the local level to ensure success. If arrangements can be made, it might be wise to consider inviting Town Council, PZC, and IWWC members as well. M. DeVoe stated he would wait until budget hearings were wrapped up before scheduling anything.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

National Trail Day – R. Paz will consider some candidates for trail selection, M. DeVoe asked that once arrangements were made, that an announcement be crafted. He will deliver the announcement to the social media coordinator for distribution in hopes of drawing more attention to the event.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

M. DeVoe provided the balance of all line items. Fund balance is \$1,167.16.

A motion was made by: *L. Lozier to approve the report as presented.*

Seconded by: *L. Linel All in Favor 6 to 0 Motion Passes*

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A river clean up event was discussed with the Fairfield Inn - Quinnipiac Riverfront mentioned as a possible target. Date and location to be finalized at the March meeting.

J. Sepko requested additional trash bags as a need for this event. M. DeVoe will order some for this and future events from the Commission's supply budget.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by: *L. Lozier at 8:45 p.m.*

Seconded by: *R. Paz All in Favor 6 to 0 Motion Passes*

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guite

Recording Secretary