

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES**

April 12, 2023

REGULAR MEETING 7:30 PM

ROOM 302 - MUNICIPAL CENTER

I. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: R. Paz was excused

STAFF: Mark Devoe, Town Planner

There was a quorum and the meeting convened at 7:31 PM.

II. GUEST PRESENTATIONS

John Kisluk: Mr. Kisluk stated that he was disappointed in the Commission's insistence on restricting boating in Paderewski Park Pond. He stated that the pond itself is not too small for boating, being nearly 15 acres in size. He stated that there is also sufficient signage and if more signage was needed, it should be to restrict the feeding of the geese, which he said were the primary reason for the pond's poor health. He felt that the actions were in contravention to the commission's goals of conservation. He blamed one member of the commission for spearheading these efforts, which he is in total disagreement with.

He also announced that the Plainville Masonic Lodge will be holding a clean up of Paderewski Park on April 29th for Masonic Lodge members only.

Arthur Marino: Mr. Marino asked why he wasn't told the Canal Trail was not going through Tomasso Nature Park any longer. Planner DeVoe stated that was not correct information. Mr. Marino disagreed. Planner DeVoe adamantly stated that his information was incorrect. Mr. Marino read a passage from the Bristol Press that could be easily construed to support his claim. Planner DeVoe again stated that the information in the article was incorrect – he had a meeting this very day with the Manager and DOT where the alignment through the park was confirmed. He was told to contact the Town Manager with any other questions.

III. MAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman's report was read and noted.

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IV. MINUTES

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2023 as written.

Seconded by: D. Tyrrell **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Tomasso Nature Park

- **Curator Report:** A report was given by J. Sepko regarding the recent beaver sightings and relocation of one or more bat boxes within the park. J. Sepko stated that he had another bat box and will look for a proper place to install that one as well.
- **Trail Options:** The Commission was advised that the Town Council approved Option #2 for the reconfiguration of Tomasso Nature Park in response to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Planner DeVoe reported that he discussed additional plantings at the two points of entry the Commission wanted to discourage Canal Trail users from entering the park. DOT was fairly certain they could provide some for of evergreen planting to help provide additional buffer in these locations. The park trail entrance would be maintained in its current location by the kiosk and a chicane gate with signage prohibiting domestic animals and bicycles would be posted there as well. The Commission was pleased with these developments.
- **Trail Signage:** The Commission now understands that DOT can only work with the school on design, fabrication, and installation of signage directly related to the Canal Trail.

b. Paderewski Park Pond

The Commission reviewed the memo generated by Courtney Hewett, Director of Park and Rec, in response to her Boards decision to support the Conservation Commission's recommendations for Paderewski Park Pond management. The only adjustment was the description of hours being changed from dawn to dusk, which the Conservation Commission is fine with.

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to approve the change in hours as per the recommendation of the Park and Rec Advisory Board.

Seconded by: D. Tyrrell **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

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A motion was made by: L. Lozier to send the recommendations for Paderewski Park Pond to the Town Council for consideration.

Seconded by: D. Tyrrell **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

- c. Earth Day:** J. Sepko stated that he has been reimbursed for the order of saplings he will distribute to different grades in different Plainville schools for an Earth Day planting ceremony. J. Sepko stated he would prepare a brief press release and send it to Planner DeVoe for distribution when the time was right.
- d. Quinnipiac River Cleanup:** The date and time was confirmed: May 6, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 12: PM. The website has been updated and Planner DeVoe will again check with Engineering to ensure that road construction won't coincide with the event. Planner DeVoe will prepare a press release and send it to the Chair for approval before sending it out to publishers.
- e. Trail Days:** The Commission thanked R. Paz in absentia for his efforts to coordinate this wonderful event, which will be used to highlight the Town's recent purchase of a portion of Bradley Mountain. The parcel will be preserved for future generations as permanent open space.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** Reimbursement for Japanese Knotweed Workshop

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to authorize reimbursement of \$72 to allow J. Sepko to attend this workshop.

Seconded by: L. Noble **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

VII. TRESURERS REPORT

M. DeVoe reported that some expenditures have been made in FY 23 after the report was printed. Chief among them was the \$252.05 payment for the Earth Day saplings.

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Seconded by: D. Tyrrell **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

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VIII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- a. Marge will contact Jennifer Dahlstrom at the Plainville Housing Authority to see what their recommendations are for a spring planting project.

A motion was made by: L. Lozier to authorize up to \$300.00 for the event.

Seconded by: D. Tyrrell **All in Favor 5 to 0 Motion Passes**

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by: L. Lozier

Seconded by: R. Paz

All in Favor 6 to 0 - Motion Passes - Meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark DeVoe
Town Planner