

March 17, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: William Urban, Chairman  
Randy Carroll  
Frank Pergola

Absent: Tim Holman  
John Jones

Others Present: Eileen Krugel, Grant Writer

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Urban.

The secretary called the roll.

There was a quorum present.

### **Public Session**

Chairman Urban asked three (3) times if there was anyone from the public who wished to address the Commission.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to close the public session. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Pergola made a motion to accept as written and place on file the minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Bills**

Mr. Carroll made a motion to pay all bills if found to be correct. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Correspondence**

There is no correspondence.

## **Referrals**

None

## **Other Business to come before the Commission**

Chairman Urban said that there are two trees that have disappeared since last Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. They are City Street trees on North Main St. at the corner of North Main St. and Fourth Street. The two trees removed are Maple trees which have a tendency to grow roots that come up through the sidewalk. He asked the Commission members what they want to do about this.

Mr. Carroll said that the City is superseding the Conservation Commission's Tree Ordinance and going to the State Ordinance on Trees.

Eileen Krugel, grant writer said that the City received America the Beautiful Grant Money for a few trees. The location for the new trees is Star Street, North Street, N. Main Street and some in the Main Street area to replace trees that have been taken down. She said there is enough money to plant seven (7) trees. The amount of the grant is \$2000 plus the City match funds.

Chairman Urban asked who is taking the trees down without permission.

Ms. Krugel said that they are old and diseased trees that needed to be removed. She said that possibly the removed trees can be replaced with a few trees from the American Beautiful grant. She suggested that someone from the Commission talk to Mr. Schryver to see where the trees are designed to be planted.

Mr. Carroll said he will contact Mr. Schryver on this.

Mr. Carroll said the Commission should send a letter to Mike Schryver asking him what trees will be taken down this Spring in the City.

Chairman Urban said the Tree Warden has to post it on the tree that is to be removed.

Ms. Krugel said Mr. Schryver might not know that he is the Tree Warden.

There was a discussion on the duties of the Tree Warden. Mr. Joe Maffeo former Supt. of Public Works recently retired and he was the Tree Warden during his tenure. Mr. Schryver is currently the temporary Supt. of Public Works and may not be aware of this procedure or that he is the Tree Warden.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Mike Schryver, Temporary Supt. of PWD advising him of the Tree Ordinance and his responsibility and to ask him to please comply with the City Tree Ordinance so that the Conservation Commission can work with him on the removal or replacement of any City tree. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Carroll said that the removal of street trees is constantly happening at the North End of the City.

The Commission members discussed the context of the letter to be sent to Mr. Schryver as follows:

“The Conservation Commission is asking that you please comply with the City Tree Ordinance so that the Conservation Commission can work with you on the replacement or removal of any City trees. As street trees have been maturing and getting larger at the North End some of them have been lifting the sidewalk. The Conservation Commission understands this and is willing to work with you on this matter but cannot do so if the trees simply disappear and no one contacts the Conservation Commission before removing them. Thank you for your attention to this matter.”

Mr. Carroll said he is Chairman of the Historical Commission and they have purchased a sign to be placed on Ansonia High School property – the Ball Field located on Prindle Avenue in an old foundation that housed the Coe Family residence. The sign is for the Coe Family who lived there around 1800 to 1820. It will be placed in the middle of the foundation however there are trees growing in there that have to be removed.

Chairman Urban advised Mr. Carroll to get a copy of the Tree Ordinance and fill out the paper work for the removal of the trees. He should also write a letter to the Conservation Commission telling them what he plans to do and he should bring a formal application before the Conservation Commission at the next meeting for approval.

There was a discussion on the removal of the trees in the City by the Public Works Department without proper notification and approval by the Conservation Commission.

Chairman Urban said that on Fourth Street there were two (2) Norway Maple trees that lifted up the sidewalk and the Public Works Dept. removed the trees and had to replace the sidewalk in that area.

The members discussed the type of tree to plant for Street trees that don't damage the sidewalks or driveways.

Chairman Urban stressed that the City should preserve the Elm Trees in the City and he hopes that the Public Works Dept. will watch and protect these Elm Trees that are fast becoming extinct.

Chairman Urban discussed the Council of Environmental Quality and the proposed changes by the legislature to combine it with the DEP.

Mr. Carroll made a motion to keep the Council of Environmental Quality intact and active in the present form and to keep it separate from the DEP. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Chairman Urban said that he will contact the State Legislators who are involved with this process and advise them of the Commission's decision.

### **April Meeting**

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

### **Adjourn**

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary