

May 19, 2009

Regular Meeting

Present: Frank Pergola, Vice-Chairman  
Randy Carroll  
Tim Holman

Absent: John Jones  
William Urban

The Regular Meeting of the Ansonia Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Pergola.

All present rose and Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The secretary called the roll. There was a quorum present.

**Public Session**

Mr. Michael Horbal and Mr. Jerry Kennedy were present.

Mr. Horbal addressed the commission stating he is here this evening representing Falcon Hall on Central Street. He said about a year and a half ago the City of Ansonia transferred to Falcon Hall property that borders the culvert wall along Beaver Brook to the Falcon Hall membership. The property varies three to five feet to the culvert wall of the brook. He said that Falcon Hall would like to remove the trees along the wall to clear an area to extend the parking lot.

Mr. Horbal presented a letter and a map with the parking lot and a soil report for the commission to review.

Mr. Horbal presented pictures taken along the wall where there are a lot of trees – wooded area. The pictures were retained by Mr. Horbal. The closer you get to the

retaining wall the trees get smaller growing through the fence. Mr. Horbal submitted a Soil Scientist Report and on the last page of the report he discusses the invasive species of trees along this wall. Mr. Shook said that Conservation Commission's would want the invasive species removed.

Mr. Horbal said he contacted the Army Corp of Engineers and Southwest Conservation District – Mr. Mrozinski regarding the removal of the trees. Mr. Horbal e-mailed the drawings to Mr. Mrozinski and the Army Corp. The Army Corp said as long as they are outside of the brook they have nothing to do with it. The Wall is owned by the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Carroll said there is a question of Dutch Elm Trees. There was a major blight of the Elm Trees in the past. He asked if these trees were large and can they be saved.

Mr. Horbal said the Elm Trees are behind the Falcon Hall building and on the bank which is owned by St Joseph's Church. Falcon Hall has received permission to cut the trees from St. Joseph's Church. The trees are not good trees.

Mr. Holman said the trees are in the way and serve no purpose. There is nothing wrong with the request they made tonight.

Mr. Horbal said the trees are on the bank of St. Joseph's Church and are over hanging the Falcon Hall building. If they fall, they will fall right on the building.

Mr. Holman agreed with Mr. Horbal in that these trees should be removed.

Mr. Horbal said that he spoke with Bill Urban on the phone and Bill asked him to contact the Army Corp. He said he contacted Bill Mullin from the Army Corp. phone # 978-318-8338 and he contacted SWCD, Roman Mrozinski.

Mr. Holman said the trees have to be removed in that lot because they are all hanging over onto the property and the building.

Mr. Horbal said the parking lot is too small for the Falcon Hall needs. They wish to expand the parking and this will double the size of the area for their parking. He said the second sheet in the map set shows where the fill will be put on the land adjacent to the wall to create additional parking spaces.

Mr. Carroll said that they have to go to Inland Wetlands Commission for their approval because they are close to the brook.

Mr. Horbal said that they have to cut the small trees because if they fill over them they will die. They want to enlarge the parking lot and install a guide rail barrier. They will make the parking lot flatter in the rear. This is an overall Club improvement and the impact to the wetlands is minimal. The retaining wall is up three to four feet above the fill area.

Mr. Horbal said that Conservation Commission has the jurisdiction over the trees in Ansonia and he has tried to contact Mike Schryver, Supt. PWD who is also the Tree Warden regarding the removal of the trees on City of Ansonia property.

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

### **Falcon Hall**

Mr. Carroll made a motion to refer the parking lot expansion at Falcon Hall to Inland Wetlands Commission, the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Tree Warden. The Conservation Commission has no problem with removal of the trees as presented to the Commission this evening and shown on the map presented. Mr. Holman seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Mr. Horbal said that they need to cut some of the trees on the property behind the building now. He asked if this would be a problem. He said they will conduct test pits near the retaining wall.

The trees that Mr. Horbal will be removing are not on City of Ansonia property and the commission members did not have a problem with Mr. Horbal removing them.

The commission members are going up to Falcon Hall after the meeting adjourns to meet with Mr. Horbal and the Falcon Hall members to see where the trees are located that will be removed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Carroll said there is a correction to the minutes on page 2, first paragraph insert "on Liberty Street".

Mr. Carroll made a motion to accept the minutes with the above correction. Mr. Holman seconded. All in favor, so carried.

### **Approval of Bills**

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

## **Correspondence**

Mr. Holman made a motion to accept and place on file all correspondence received. Mr. Carroll seconded. All in favor, so carried.

1. Kevin Blake, Corporation Counsel re: Executive Session
2. Michael Horbal re: Map and information on Falcon Hall parking lot.

## **Referrals**

None

## **Any other business to come before the Commission**

Mr. Carroll discussed the trees that were removed on Third Street and in his neighborhood that were in cement boxes. He said there is spray painting marks where there was nothing before on the pavement and he is questioning what is planned.

Mr. Holman said that Public Works Dept. is in the process of replanting some of the trees that were removed. There was grant money received to replace the trees. He said that the spray painting is probably where the new trees will be planted.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Holman seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary