



CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
**City of Ansonia**  
CONNECTICUT 06401

January 20, 2015

Regular Meeting

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*Elizabeth J. Lynch*  
TOWN AND CITY CLERK  
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

Present: William Urban, Chairman  
Frank Pergola  
Joseph Cassetti

Absent: John Jones  
Tim Holman

Others present: Randy Carroll

The regular meeting of the Ansonia Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman Urban at 7:25 p.m.

Chairman Urban thanked the commissioners for their service to the Commission and the City of Ansonia.

Mr. Cassetti said there was a flyer in the mailing from the Audubon Society. He asked how the Conservation Commission was involved with them.

Chairman Urban explained that they are a Conservation group and that he is a co-founder. They keep the Commission informed.

Mr. Cassetti asked if the Commission supports them.

Chairman Urban said not any more, we did in the past. He explained the fee schedule for the Society.

Mr. Cassetti asked if the Conservation Commission is involved with the Scouts. He said it is good to keep the Scouts active.

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Chairman Urban said on occasion, the Commission works with the Boy Scouts who are trying to make Eagle Scout. He said if there is a specific project to address and the Scouts can help we reach out to them.

Mr. Carroll said the Conservation Commission sponsored two Eagle Scouts.

### **Public Session**

Mr. Randy Carroll was present. He said he has asked the Mayor to re-appoint him to the Conservation Commission. He said he would like the Mayor to write a letter to the Seymour Land Trust.

Mr. Cassetti asked if they are still active.

Mr. Carroll said yes and they meet every month. He said he spent his own money on signs for the Fountain Lake park – “No Snowmobiling” and No Dirt Bike Riding” and these signs were taken down. He said he would like the Mayor to send a letter to the Seymour First Selectman asking him to make a member of the Ansonia Conservation Commission a member of the Seymour Land Trust. He said the Seymour Land Trust holds Ansonia’s open space.

Mr. Cassetti said we are forbidding the use of Recreational vehicles at Fountain Lake, can we offer them any alternative.

Mr. Carroll said the park property is passive recreation. There are two lakes located on the site. He said that up near Comcast, Mr. Cassetti when he was on the Board of Aldermen worked to purchase that land. They can still hike there but the dirt bikes and the ATV are destroying the property.

Mr. Cassetti asked if there is evidence of the damage.

Mr. Carroll said he brought videos to the Ordinance Committee to show them and they passed the Ordinance forbidding dirt bikes and ATV’s on the property. He said he will walk the property with Mr. Cassetti and show him the damage.

Chairman Urban said that he and Frank have gone up to the site to see the damage.

Mr. Carroll said he spent \$90 for signs and the City of Ansonia spent \$90 for the second set of signs which were also taken down. He said they access the property near the water tower and at Homa Pump. He has suggested they put big boulders to block the access way.

Mr. Carroll said the Scouts keep the paths clear on the property. He said he sponsored a troop from Seymour that did volunteer work at the park. He said he also sponsored an Eagle Scout. Kids are willing to help out with this type of project.

Mr. Carroll said the last time he spoke to the Seymour Land Trust he was told they have the power to arrest anyone who is doing damage to the park. The neighbors are upset with all of this activity. He said Mayor Casseti could contact the First Selectman of Seymour and ask for one member on the Seymour Land Trust.

Mr. Carroll said voiced his concern on the following items

- Ansonia Copper & Brass building, they are tearing down the buildings on the 6 acres of property. Are there permits for the demolition? He is concerned with public health impact.
- Has DEEP been notified that these buildings are being torn down? A commissioner who is a fireman stated the Fire Dept. will not go in there because of the contamination.
- Has there been an environmental investigation of the Ansonia Copper & Brass site. Five people have passed away in his housing complex from brain tumors and the only thing they had in common is they live in the complex which is neighboring this property.
- Conservation Commission asked for a report on the impact of the Latex Foam fire and did not receive one.

Mr. Pergola said that could be the function of the IWC representative.

- The cost to dredge the Red Wing Pond at the Nature Center is over one million dollars.

Chairman Urban explained that the pond was a brook that fed the swamp. He said it was basically a Red Maple swamp and a grassed area (meadow). The City of Ansonia used that section and dredged it out to make the pond.

Mr. Carroll said that it was discussed at the Board of Aldermen meeting that the parking lot at the Nature Center will be resurfaced. He said the parking lot borders a wetlands area.

There was discussion on the parking lot at the Nature Center and what must be done to protect the wetlands and brook that runs along the border of the parking lot.

- Mr. Carroll: a city resident was at the WPCA meeting asking to have the street where she lives become a City street. He said as former Chair of the Historic Commission he conducted a survey of abandoned roads in Ansonia and this road is not a City road.
- Mr. Carroll: Robert Scinto, Fountain Lake project said he will donate picnic tables for the park area at FLCF so that employees in the area can walk down the hill and eat lunch.

- **Mr. Carroll:** The Fountain and Clock at the Ansonia Library has been restored. Mr. Carroll raised \$60,000 for these projects. He said the Dahlia is the City of Ansonia's flower since 1883 and he would like to plant some in front of the fountain. He is asking Conservation Commission for funding to purchase the flowers. He stated the Friends donated money to repair the tiles in the entrance of the Library.

There was a discussion on the Dahlia flower and the feasibility of planting them in front of the fountain at the Library. Chairman Urban said Dahlia's are the most stolen flowers. Mr. Carroll said that the Dahlia is the City of Ansonia's flower and he thought it would be nice to have it planted at the historic site.

- **Power Plant.** Mr. Carroll said that Alderwoman Radin would like to attend the next Conservation Commission meeting to advise the Commissioners as to what is happening with the plant.

There was discussion on the Power Plant and Chairman Urban asked if they have received any permits. Mr. Carroll said he believes there are contracts and agreements in place concerning the facility and that they are up February 1, 2015.

Mr. Carroll said there will be 10 tons of food coming to Ansonia to be burned in the Plant. The residue will be would as fertilizer and there will be three (3) buildings that will benefit from the power – Public Works Complex, Stop & Shop and he doesn't know the third.

Mr. Joe Cassetti asked what site this plant will be located on.

Mr. Carroll said behind the Sewer Plant. There will be a methane plant also. WPCA can handle the fluids but not the chemicals. It will cost more to handle the chemicals. If we have to expand the WPCA Plant we will not be able to because they will have all of the land.

Mr. Cassetti said is there a study done?

Mr. Carroll said two of these plants are in North America. He discussed the plant in Australia and that there is nothing on the website for Greenpoint. There is one in Disney World that is functioning quite well however there is a lot of food waste and it is located on 40 acres away from any residential neighborhood. This one is right down in the middle of the town.

Mr. Joe Cassetti asked the benefit for us.

Chairman Urban explained the anaerobic process stating that it cooks the organic matter and produces methane.

There was continued discussion on the process, where it could be located and who is hosting the plant. Mr. Pergola said that the Conservation Commission is an advisory board for this type of

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activity. Mr. Carroll said there were three (3) public hearings held on this subject. Mr. Joe Cassetti said you need guarantees on this.

Mr. Pergola made a motion to invite Alderwoman Radin to attend the February meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss this anaerobic plant. Mr. Joe Cassetti seconded. All in favor, so carried.

- Mr. Carroll: Reminded everyone that it is budget time and that the Dept. Heads should attend the meetings for their budget.

Chairman Urban said there are two things that should be addressed. They are:

- Chairman Urban: Status of the Ansonia Copper & Brass remediation – the Federal and State staff have to be notified and involved.
- Chairman Urban: DEEP has to be involved.

Mr. Carroll said Farrel's had their brownfield cleaned. We were involved and informed when they did the remediation from Farrel's to SHW. He said the two IWC members never came to Conservation to advise them. In the past Conservation was very well informed.

Chairman Urban said the Farrel site vs. the Ansonia Copper & Brass site for contamination – the Ansonia Copper & Brass site is more contaminated than Farrels. Before they trucked out the material it was checked and IWC and CC were sent reports.

Mr. Carroll said he is concerned with the following issues:

- Building 7 – A fireman, who is a commissioner reported that the Fire Dept. will not respond to fires in any other building because of contamination.
- There is an elementary school within five (500) hundred feet of this site.
- Ansonia Community Action has been restored and is being used.
- Residential neighborhood is right there.
- Material and "stuff" in the air. People don't want to breathe the stuff in the air.
- Fire trucks are on the site of demolition spraying water, where is the water going from the site.

Chairman Urban said that pollution covers the whole town.

Discussion on what is in these buildings that are being torn down and is the administration aware of what is in there. Chairman Urban said there is just about everything there except uranium. Mr. Pergola said the City should provide the permits and advise the Commission as a courtesy as to what is happening on the site.

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Mr. Carroll asked the Conservation Commission to see if the permits were issued for the work that is being done on the AC&B site.

Mr. Joe Cassetti said Mr. Carroll could get them from the Fire Dept. They are part of public safety.

There was discussion on how the Commission can retrieve this information on the permits and contamination. Chairman Urban suggested the best way is to have the Chief Executive contact DEEP to find out which section of DEEP has been involved.

Mr. Flaherty said the building could be taken down but they will do environmental testing before they replace the building on the six acre site. Only lumber was stored in the building. There is an agreement they would have to test it before they could go forward with anything.

Mr. Joe Cassetti he doesn't believe there is anyone interested in that site right now.

Mr. Flaherty said Sheila O'Malley is very knowledgeable concerning Brownfield sites.

Mr. Carroll said he wants to know if any permits have been taken out for the work being done. He mentioned the "swimming pool" that was used to clean the parts and is full of chemicals.

Chairman Urban asked what part of DEEP has looked at this project and what are they doing, who is in charge of the project as they move along.

Mr. Joe Cassetti asked is it dormant – are there machines moving on the site.

Mr. Carroll explained the location of the demolition and buildings that are being torn down by using a map.

Chairman Urban said the six acres straddles the river from Third Street to Coe Pond. He asked if there is public access to the area.

Mr. Carroll said there is no public access to the area and there is a map of the six acres on the Valley Independent Sentinel.

Chairman Urban said DEEP needs to know what is going on and that way there are no surprises. They need to know who is watching the store and to whom they must report to. He said there should be involvement of State Regulators.

Mr. Joe Cassetti said he will ask the Mayor what is going on.

## **Minutes**

Mr. Pergola made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Joe Cassetti seconded. All in favor, so carried.

## **Bills**

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

## **Correspondence**

None

Mr. Pergola said the secretary sent out a notice asking the commissioners to call if they can't come to the meeting. He said that he and Mrs. Flaherty sat at the meeting for an hour last month.

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

Mr. Cassetti said that Mr. Carroll came to the Commission meeting looking for funding for flowers. He asked if the Commission can give him some money for the flowers.

Mr. Carroll said he withdraws his request for the purchase of flowers because of the pilfering that was discussed earlier. If people are going to steal the flowers there is no sense in planting them. He said his project is finished at the Library.

Mr. Joe Cassetti suggested the City contact Public Works regarding the installation of boulders at Fountain Lake Park to keep the dirt bikes and ATV's off the property.

Mr. Carroll said he would have to get HOMA Pump's permission to block the access way. He asked Mr. Joe Cassetti to walk the area with him because there is an Indian Village site from the 1700's located there.

Mr. Joe Cassetti said he will walk the site with Mr. Carroll to see what is going on up there. They will also look at the former Indian Village area.

Mr. Carroll asked the Conservation Commission to write a letter to Public Works Dept. regarding the picnic tables near the covered bridge at FLCP. He said three (3) picnic tables have been thrown over the waterfall and he would like PWD to remove them from the water and the waterfall.

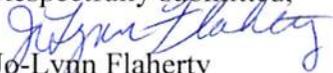
Mr. Joe Cassetti suggested the Commission wait until we get pictures of them in the waterfall.

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**Adjourn**

Mr. Joe Cassetti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Pergola seconded. All in favor, so carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jo-Lynn Flaherty  
Secretary