

# TOWN OF WOODBURY

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## TROLLEY BED PLANNING COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2016  
7:00 p.m., Senior Center

### Members Attending:

Nancy Bailey	Chris Wood
Tom Ecsedy	Bob Travers
Terri Hale	

Also attending: K. Doyle, D. Barry, other members of the public.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Travers seated the five members present; a quorum was established. Chairman Travers referenced Section 8-21 of Connecticut General Statutes and Section 921 of the Town Charter, Conflict of Interest.

Chairman Travers suggested moving the Draft Usage Document discussion to the end of the agenda to allow more focused discussion time. All agreed.

### **OLD BUSINESS –**

**DEEP EASEMENT DRAFT** – Chairman Travers distributed a copy of an email from First Selectman Butterly and Town Attorney Paul Jessell answering concerns raised by the Committee members regarding the DEEP easement requirements. The recommendation from Mr. Butterly and Mr. Jessell is that the DEEP easement wording not be changed. Any change would require the document go through the Attorney General's Office, which would cause delays; additionally, the types of issues in question would fall within the vague language of the easement. For example, the Commission asked about putting specific allowance in for agricultural (potentially commercial) activities such as beekeeping or maple sugaring. Mr. Jessell noted in the email that this, in his experience, would not be prohibited by the State easement, and that making specific allowances may be construed as prohibiting others. Mr. Jessell suggested that parking areas were more of a concern for DEEP; Chairman Travers said that construction details of parking were not the decision of the Committee. Chairman Travers said he believes there is no reason to pursue any easement modifications. Committee members agreed to remove this item from the agenda going forward.

**MEMBERS' TIME** – None.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None (other than email discussed above and below).

**MINUTES** – N Bailey moved to approve the September 12 meeting minutes; seconded by T. Ecsedy. Minutes unanimously (5-0) approved.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – D. Barry, a resident of Scuppo Road, asked the Committee if they could identify the exact "turnaround" area that was discussed with Public Works Director R. Lamothe

at the last meeting. Chairman Travers said he is not sure of the precise location, but will find out from Mr. Lamothe. Mr. Barry said that he believes the turnaround referenced is one within 200 feet of his home and even closer to a neighbor's, in contrast to discussion from last meeting that said no homes were nearby. He also noted that this turnaround was given as an easement to the Town by his family for emergency vehicle turnaround when the road did not go through. He also said that if any parking is put on Scuppo Road, there should be trash receptacles, as trash is already a problem there. K. Doyle said she hopes there will be a recommendation that, when the Town takes possession of the land and the entrances are determined, there be a posting at each entrance with pertinent Town regulations so people know what rules apply to the use of the property. She also recommended that the Draft Use Document include the Town-owned abutting properties as part of the "park" and that these properties be clearly shown by maps. Ms. Doyle additionally noted that animal waste removal is not covered by Town ordinance, and all requests for such are voluntary. Ms. Doyle noted that she hopes there will be a recommendation that the Committee be continued for six to nine months to oversee and assess the management and uses of the property. She would like to have codified who and how the decisions about trails, uses, etc. will be made in the future. Chairman Travers said that he will identify the abutting parcels again with maps. He also said that the charge of the Committee was to produce a use document recommendation only. He added that another Committee could be created for follow up and management, but that was not the decision of this Committee. K. Doyle said she feels that the continued efforts need to be coordinated between Commissions such as Park and Rec and Conservation.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT USAGE DOCUMENT** – T. Ecsedy moved to accept the draft document written by C. Wood for discussion. T. Hale seconded. Unanimously approved. Chairman Travers began by distributing comments from D. Taylor, who was unable to attend the meeting. He also suggested starting the discussion with the matrix of uses located at the end of the document. The following discussion points were offered:

DT – suggested addition of a third section titled "Uses Allowed with Monitoring" in matrix in order to match introduction text; suggested management/stewardship plan be taken out as a use and addressed in the body of the text as a separate issue. CW said there is some overlap in the matrix categories and they are not mutually exclusive, perhaps those categories do not necessarily need to be the ones used. CW agreed that management plan should be outlined in text. RT asked if management plans can be modeled from other sources; CW answered certainly, as long as they are adapted to make them appropriate for this property. CW noted that the charge of the Committee is not to design the management plan, but to recommend it be done. TE agreed that the organization of the uses could be looked at differently but should match the text, and perhaps be explained more in the text. TE agreed with the idea of putting immediate uses and future considered uses in the recommendations. CW added that some future uses would require either monitoring or funding to move forward, and this was not within the power of the Committee to decide. CW said he will add maps showing abutting Town-owned properties so they could be included. TE asked if including other properties in the "park" was outside the scope of recommendations, and should perhaps be presented as a suggested option. TH said she would like to know more about these parcels before making that suggestion. RT will assemble more information. TE cautioned that the Town may not want the DEEP restrictions to apply to other parcels, and this should be clarified. NB noted that many people already consider the South Brook easement to be part of the central property, and also that the South Brook easement has its own restrictions (such as no horseback riding) that need to be observed. TH asked if the name has been decided. CW said he just picked a name for discussion purposes, and that the Committee did not necessarily have that decision power but could recommend. TE said he prefers a name that conveys that the land is a park but also a conservation area. RT said the title park seems to imply active recreation facilities, such as Hollow Park vs. Strong Preserve. NB expressed discomfort with the word trolley as it seems to suggest motorized use. CW

suggested South Brook Sanctuary, and additional names were discussed. TH said she would like to see the term "agricultural uses" clarified, as some are clearly not indicated. CW said the whole section on commercial uses would be rewritten based on the correspondence from P. Jessell. RT said that it should not be too specific so as to exclude some future uses not considered today. CW said any agricultural uses should have an impact review. RT said he still has some questions about whether some future uses will be viewed by DEEP as violations and how they would control this. TH asked if the Committee had actually agreed on prohibiting horseback riding and camping. CW said no, they were just included for discussion, although he feels the property is too small and too environmentally fragile to allow horses. There was conflicting information on whether horseback riding was allowed by Flanders in the Whittemore, and whether the Town property abutting Whittemore includes the old logging road or not. NB restated that the South Brook easement area prohibits horses. TE reiterated that there should be some explanation of why certain decisions were made to inform the public of the factors that lead to the decisions. RT noted that hunting is allowed on some open space properties in other towns, but that is determined by segmenting the properties naturally by terrain. He said this property seems too small and close to residential area. NB added that there is an assumption of safety because the property has been free of hunting in past years. TE asked about the wording that all uses not listed were prohibited, and suggested that wording be changed to allow for uses the Committee may not have considered. RT summarized the discussion points for next meeting:

- 1) Monitoring – listed as a use or as its own category in the recommendations
- 2) Possibly omitting 4 original categories of uses and revising marix
- 3) Including maps of abutting properties and including/not including in recommendations
- 4) Name recommendations, and whether to include "Trolley" or not
- 5) Clarify agricultural uses
- 6) Revisit horseback riding, camping, boating in prohibited uses
- 7) Explain reasons for decisions in text
- 8) Uses not listed – are they prohibited by definition? What body decides future uses?

Chairman Travers asked if there were other dates Committee members could meet in October, as some members would not be available for the Oct. 24 regular meeting. Members decided to meet on October 31 if a meeting room was available.

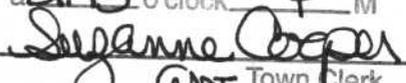
**ADJOURNMENT-** T. Hale moved to adjourn; seconded by T. Ecsedy. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda G. Kaelin, Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED  
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 27<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 2016  
at 2:45 o'clock P M  
  
Suzanne Cooper  
Town Clerk