



First land deed from the Indians
April 12th 1659

TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021 8:00 A.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz
L. Peters
J. Sherman
L. Pittari
A. Musso

MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. Arno

Also Present: Town Planner Maryellen Edwards

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 8:03 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

MOTION:

J. Sherman moved and L. Peters seconded to accept the minutes of the November meeting as presented.

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor noted to the Commission that a notice had been placed in the Voices newspaper regarding the 1754 House Restaurant wanting to expand. Chairman Taylor wanted the Commission to be aware that this may go to Inlands/ Wetlands in regards to the river. Ms. Edwards pointed out that this application is only for a parking lot expansion and will not need to go to Inlands/Wetlands. Storm water management will be handled through the Zoning Commission.
- The Town is starting to create a plan for the closing of the Park Road Quarry. Chairman Taylor wanted the Commission to be aware of this for the future.

- Ms. Edwards submitted the updated table of the POCD to the Selectman. She will provide the updated table for everyone to review.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a. Election of Officers

J. Sherman stated that there were no other volunteers for any position.

MOTION:

D. Schultz moved and J. Sherman seconded to appoint David Taylor as Chairman for the Conservation Commission.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION:

D. Schultz moved and A. Musso seconded to appoint Jeff Sherman as Vice Chairman for the Conservation Commission.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

b. Discussion on Changing Meeting Time / Day

L. Peters began the discussion of possibly changing the time of the Conservation Commission meetings to be on an evening. Having the meeting in the morning can be difficult for those who have to be at work. Evening meetings also may be more convenient for members of the public to get more involved. The Commission discussed this option in conjunction with the Town calendar and what nights are still available for when in person meetings can resume. The consensus was that the first Tuesday of every month seemed to be the best option. Chairman Taylor instructed the members to consider this and a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

c. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

J. Sherman gave an update to the Commission. Flanders Director Vince LaFontan will be holding a free presentation to the public presented by Carol Shea, a research entomologist, on March 9th at 7:00 p.m. on hemlock woolly adelgids. This will help to raise awareness of the problem and teach people how to identify the hemlocks and the adelgids.

The predator beetles are on order. Ms. Shea, will be the coordinator of the application of the beetles at Nonnewaug falls in the spring. The goal is for the beetles to establish a colony that will expand naturally and create equilibrium between the beetles and the adelgids. An additional goal is of raising awareness and speaking with larger land owners to work in conjunction with the town. Chairman Taylor inquired on how to get volunteers for the project. It was suggested that maybe the AP Enviro Science class would be interested in helping. J. Sherman will speak with Ms. Shea regarding this. Discussion arose about using a specific app to help locate and log the location of hemlock trees. J. Sherman will try to obtain information to get organized for the next meeting.

d. Municipal Composting

L. Peters spoke to Ed Belinsky of the Vo-Ag department at Nonnewaug High School in regards to composting. The Vo-Ag department has been composting for the past 10 years. They have tried to incorporate this practice into the cafeteria. Unfortunately, someone has to be in charge of managing the compost to make sure only acceptable items are being composted. They have not been able to implement this as of yet. L. Peters stated that these same issues would come up for the Town as well, and realized this is most likely not a practical venture. Composting of household waste seems overwhelming to many people. She recommended encouraging composting in the newsletter. A. Musso suggested this could be the topic of a conservation talk. An outline will be worked on for this idea for the next meeting. L. Peters will speak to Mr. Belinsky to see if he is interested in doing a conservation talk.

e. POCD 1.1 update

Chairman Taylor sent a list of maintenance items to the Park and Recreation Department to review. He received acknowledgement of the list. He is not aware if these maintenance items have become budget items or how they will be handled. He will follow up with the department in six to nine months with another list.

f. POCD Implementation Summary 4.1: Brochure describing the value of open space

Chairman Taylor opened up the discussion regarding the brochure and how the Commission would like to approach and outline this task. He has spoken with Selectman Perkinson who will be setting aside funds in the budget for this project. The idea of there being general explanations of the different values of open space and then highlighting the different open space areas was explored. A. Musso suggested a general introduction along with the use of icons for different values such as forest, waterfall, river etc. Then each property will have the icons of what is found at that location. This idea was well received.

Chairman Taylor instructed the Members to start to compile a list of the values that should be expressed in simple terms. J. Sherman noted that different people hold different values and to try to think of different groups of people and how it impacts them. D. Schultz explained how the Planning Commission is trying to market and brand the Town for a new vision of Woodbury. The slogan “Come for a day and plan to stay” is being used. He is recommending trying to coordinate with that program for destinations points as a draw for people. Any links that can be posted on the Town website would be helpful.

Chairman Taylor stated he will talk to the Shade Tree Committee and try to gather notes and consolidate information for the next meeting. He encouraged all members to do the same. Photos in all seasons will also be needed of the open space areas. He also recommended reading “The Afterlife of Leaves.” This story shows how leaves contribute to the feeding cycle of water.

g. POCD 5.1 Develop a plan & map identifying open space lands that are priorities for protection / acquisition.

Chairman Taylor was unsure on how to proceed with this directly. This project has a two to three year timeline. D. Schultz inquired if this involves working with other towns. Currently the project is for the Town only but it may have to be regionalized. Chairman Taylor is trying to determine how to be effective and who the targeted audience is. The intention has to do with acquisition of parcels for open space. The people in town tend to assume that any town owned property is open space which is not necessarily the case. They also feel that all protected open space is town owned. The majority of open space is private land or nonprofit owned. By working on the brochure for the value of open space, that can help lay the groundwork for this project of identifying open space lands for protection in the future.

h. Conservation Talks

Chairman Taylor would like to start thinking about conservation talks again even if they need to be virtual. He encouraged members to start developing a list of possible topics.

i. 3 Rivers Riparian restoration

There was no discussion of this topic.

j. Recommended reading: "The Afterlife of Leaves" Connecticut Woodlands, Winter 2021

Chairman Taylor had noted this previously in the meeting for members to read.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Pittari spoke in regards to conservation talks. She felt the budget should be considered in trying to obtain speakers. The virtual format actually presents good opportunities to have speakers who are not local. It was discussed that the Zoom format would be better for conservation talks, rather than Go To Meeting. The library currently has a license for Zoom.

L. Pittari discussed the climate change presentation that she had attended. It was a more scientific discussion, not an entry level one. It was not something she recommended for the Commission to present. Chairman Taylor stated he will send the link to members from the Governors Commission on climate change.

J. Sherman would like to promote the presentation at Flanders on March 9th for the woolly adelgid problem to the email list.

J. Sherman also noted that the Trolley Bed is not being maintained. There are massive trees across the path. The area needs a lot of work. There was also some drainage gravel put down on the lower part of the trail. He is not clear as to who is responsible to do work, if there is a plan and if there is a budget. He will revisit this at a later time.

A. Musso noted that she will start putting together the newsletter again. She also mentioned that during a recent visit to Nonnewaug falls, she encountered four quads. She was encouraged to report it for enforcement.

6. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on February 25, 2021.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

J. Sherman moved and A. Musso seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

Copies of documents and meeting audio are available at the Land Use Office

RECEIVED
Feb 21 11:45 AM
ATTY: Meia Mancini
TOWN CLERK WOODBURY CT