



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

281 Main Street South
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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 2, 2024
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
D. West
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

T. Clark

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

D. West headed the Nominating Committee. There were two nominations.

MOTION:

To elect David Taylor to serve as Chairman and Jeff Sherman to serve as Vice Chairman.

Made by D. West, Seconded by C. Aberg

Vote: 6-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: West, Taylor, Peters, Aberg, Hickey, Sherman

Nays: None

Abstain: None

D. West left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the December 5, 2023, Conservation Commission for consideration. He called for discussion. L. Peters had some minor corrections.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- Section 4.I – 1st paragraph : remove second to last sentence that begins “Carol Haskins...”
- Section 4.I – 2nd paragraph, second sentence : should be “Tara Fernandes.”

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by C. Aberg

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Aberg, Hickey, Sherman

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor noted that on January 25, 2024, the PRWC under the Conservation Commission sponsorship, will be holding a presentation on their stormwater management report for Woodbury. The event will be in the evening around 7:00 p.m.

There will be a workshop given by DEEP Wildlife Biologist, Peter Picone on the subject of Practical Planting of Native Seeds. It will be held in Burlington, CT on January 6, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Anyone who wants to attend would need to register.

The CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) will be holding a winter summit. There is a fee to attend, which budget funds could be used for.

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Pollinator Pathway Presentation at Woodbury Library

The Commission will be working with Marla Martin over the next month to finalize the plans. L. Peters did make a list of some items that need to happen. A priority is publicizing the event. She received some photos from Marti Sherman to use in making a flyer. Chairman Taylor will speak with Ms. Martin to see if the library can make the flyer, and also about room capacity. M. Sherman will distribute the information to the Garden Club. The Parks & Rec Department can distribute to their email list and Conservation will distribute to theirs. The information should also be posted on the community calendar and the Town website. C. Aberg will send the flyer information to the graphic artist she is working with. There was discussion about whether or not to offer refreshments.

Lisa Turoczi will be doing the presentation on February 15th. The Garden Club will be doing a Q & A on February 29th. B. Hickey has some books on the subject to get to M. Martin. J. Sherman would like to talk about the Minortown Road project but doesn't want to take away time from other organizations.

b) Trash Reduction Pilot Program

L. Peters briefed the Commission on the progress of the Committee. There are three more meetings to be held before their recommendation to the Board of Selectmen on January 25th. There will be a press release in Voices to update the community on the plan. The Committee will be contacting other transfer stations to get ideas. A site visit to Portland's station is supposed to happen. Portland has had a composting program for quite a while. There was discussion that an EZ pass type of system that could be used at the transfer station for entrance. If the recycling and food scrap bins were outside of the gated area, this could solve many of the problems and take some pressure off of the workers.

c) Three Rivers Park

Chairman Taylor reported that there hasn't been any progress on this project. The tree has not been moved. The BoS is seeking a grant to get a grant writer for this project. The LIFF actually offers a grant to obtain a grant writer. B. Hickey commented that with the recent home appraisals that occurred, it might be beneficial to keep some of that money to put towards the cost of a grant writer. Discussion continued that the town should make a committee for this project since it is so large and it impacts multiple commissions. Chairman Taylor stated that was discussed at the last meeting. J. Sherman noted that this is a time sensitive matter since the river will start getting destructive if the problem isn't handled.

d) Stomski Way, Minortown Road

J. Sherman has been in discussion with Peter Picone who will be heading the native seed workshop. Mr. Picone said that he will do a walk through the property in early May to help make a plan. J. Sherman passed out an article about pollinator pathways and no tiller planting. Mr. Picone recommended to put together a Statement of Use to protect the area in the future. Chairman Taylor stated that the Commission needs to focus on how the area would be used. He spoke of the possible need for a fence or gate, making it handicap accessible and if horses should be allowed. The general consensus was to have pathways and benches around the property.

e) Hollow Park Plan

Chairman Taylor stated that not much has happened with this project to report on.

f) Open Space Brochure

Chairman Taylor asked the Commission to think about how much bandwidth they each have to pursue this project at this time. While everyone would like to get this project done, there are other areas that need more attention currently. B. Hickey recommended that some of these items on open space properties that need to be fixed should be addressed prior to the brochure so that it will be current and relative once printed. There was also discussion relating to the list of open space property that COG is putting together.

g) Newsletter

C. Aberg sent out a text draft of the newsletter to the Commission. She asked for feedback by January 9th. She will then get the information to T. Clarke for layout and printing.

h) 2024 Meeting Calendar

There was discussion for the April and August meeting location. B. Hickey recommended using the Firehouse. He will confirm that tomorrow.

i) Open Space Issues & Input to Departmental Budgets

There were no issues reported on. Chairman Taylor stated that he submitted a budget.

6. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters noted that the BoS meeting said that Commissions could use GoTo Meetings or Zoom if needed to have hybrid meetings. She thought this could possibly be a good idea during the winter. She also noted that DEEP has grants for trail development.

B. Hickey noted that the State of NY is banning neonicotinoide seeds which are genetically modified seeds that make their own pesticides. He thinks this is a great thing and will look into if the State of CT is working on a similar initiative.

J. Sherman stated that the next clean-up day is April 6, 2024. He has a family event and will not be able to attend. He will help organize beforehand.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Dennis Roberts, Minortown Road, addressed the Commission. Mr. Roberts stated that someone is dumping loads of chemicals on Route 6 past Mill House Antiques. The liquid is clear when it is released but then dries to a brownish color. He is not sure what it is. The spill goes from Old Town Farm Road all the way to Taft School in Watertown. He is worried that whatever this substance is might be getting into the water system. J. Sherman contacted DEEP regarding the spill. They said they will send someone to look at it. J. Sherman will check on this.

Mr. Roberts also mentioned that he spoke to Jamie Gore at the Parks & Rec Department to care for the grasses at Stomski Way. She said she will address the issue. He also mentioned the spray that the farmers use that drifts to all the houses nearby. Unfortunately, they can spray anything that the EPA allows.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by B. Hickey
Consensus of the Commission in favor 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

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

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 4th day of Jan 2024
at 3:40 o'clock PM
Maria M. Mancini
Treasurer