



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark
B. Hickey

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. West
C. Aberg

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the December 6, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting for considerations. He called for discussion. L. Peters had some corrections to make.

- Page 3, final paragraph, second sentence should read: "...as to the drawbacks of impervious paving."
- Page 3, final paragraph, fifth sentence should read: "...designing the Open Space brochure."

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting as amended.

Made by T. Clark, Seconded by L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to consider at this time.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Election of Officers

MOTION:

To nominate David Taylor for the position of Chairman

Made by T. Clark, Seconded by L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The floor was opened up for discussion or any other nominations. There were none.

MOTION:

To close the nomination for the position of Chairman.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

David Taylor will remain in the position of Chairman

MOTION:

To nominate Jeff Sherman for the position of Vice Chairman

Made by T. Clark, Seconded by L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

The floor was opened up for discussion or any other nominations. There were none.

MOTION:

To close the nomination for the position of Vice Chairman.

Made by T. Clark, Seconded L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None
Abstain: None

Jeff Sherman will remain in the position of Vice Chairman.

b) Upcoming Events:

Earth Day

Earth Day is scheduled for April 29, 2023. L Peters will email the other members her list of items to bring. The members discussed what they would like to feature at the Earth Day booth. They will focus on the composting pilot program in conjunction with raffling off a home compost bin. Educating the public on the benefits of composting will be highlighted. They will do the potting of pumpkin seeds again since it was popular with the kids. The large open space map will be used again. J. Sherman has a small handout booklet for Hemlock Woolly Adelgids that he will get printed up. It also will have a “QR” code. If the Open Space brochure is done by that point that will get printed up as well for handouts.

Discussion turned toward the composting pilot program. The program is for people who are not already composting at home. This was surprising that those who already compost are not supposed to be in the program since it could through the data off. However, the program accepts many items that people do not compost at home such as chicken bones and pizza boxes. B. Hickey noted that there was an article in the NY Times regarding Ohio participating in a similar program. The members agreed that it would be good to stimulate interest in the program to people on Clean-up Day which is April 1, 2023.

CLCC Conference

The CLCC conference will be held in person at Wesleyan University on March 25, 2023, for those interested in attending.

Library Display

The members discussed what they would like to focus on in the library display cabinet. The space will be available for the month of April. A poster with questions and answers highlighting native plant use and identifying invasive plants was suggested. A “QR” code leading to the UConn site would be helpful. There will be a display of the composting bag from the pilot program with fake food demonstrating what food items are acceptable. The members will continue to work on other ideas.

c) Municipal Composting Program

The majority of this topic was already discussed. The program is starting on February 7, 2023. Flyers are being handed out at the transfer station. There are different strategies being used for educating the public. The savings on cost to the Town will be highlighted. There will be a series of events kicking off the program. L.Peters will try to attend them and will convey the highlights. The dates of events are as follows:

- 1/19/23—Kickoff dinner at the library
- 1/26/23—Senior Center presentation
- 2/2/23---Recycling Workshop
- 2/18/23—Kickoff fair at the library

d) Minortown Road Property

J. Sherman updated the Commission that he was still awaiting proposals from two of the three contractors. Any requested amount needs to be submitted for the town budget by January 17th to be included in this year's budget. He would like to use the property for educational purposes by having people be able to walk through an unmowed meadow and be able to identify invasive species. He mentioned that he will check out a few areas around town in regards to the HWA project to see if more funds are needed in the budget. T. Clark will check on Orenaug Park.

e) POCD Items

L. Peters emailed Chris Mata on the BOE to inquire about the Mitchell school parking lot paving. She asked if the item is in the budget and if so, when it is scheduled for. Mr. Mata said that he will get back to her on that, but he was not aware of that item.

Chairman Taylor spoke of the list of recommended action items from the PRWC. The Commission decided the information should go to First Selectman Perkinson.

MOTION:

To send to the First Selectman the project list recommended by the PRWC that the Town and Region 14 should act upon to protect the watershed.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by T. Clark

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Clark, Hickey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Mary Connolly, Planning Commission Chair, sent a letter to D. Taylor regarding the POCD action item 5.2. The Planning Commission is the lead organization for this item with support from the Conservation Commission and other groups. The objective is to develop a strategic open space protection and acquisition plan. Ms. Connolly is trying to figure out how to get the groups together. The consensus was to have a joint meeting with one to two members per group to develop the plan.

f) Zoning Regulations Related to Conservation

The Commission is waiting to hear from the Zoning Commission.

g) Route 6 Study

There was a meeting in July for this initiative, but there is not a lot of information on this project yet. The Town Planner needs to work with NVCOG on this project.

h) Open Space Issues

Chairman Taylor and J. Sherman had the PRWC look at the Weekeepemee River near Three Rivers Park. There are several trees down due to erosion taking out the river bank. They are trying to get Public Works to tie the trees to the bank to stop further erosion. This is an instance of trap rock being used up stream which caused erosion downstream.

i) Newsletter Revival

This item is on hold since C. Aberg was taking the lead on this and was not able to be present.

5. MEMBER TIME

B. Hickey stated that Bud Neal is looking for grants for the Stomsky property to be used for pollinators and will keep them posted. B. Hickey had looked into making Woodbury a Pollinator Pathway town. The Town does not need to give permission to participate. He found that he will need to form a committee of several members from several groups to get approved by the organization. Members from Conservation, Flanders, the PRWC and the Garden Club could form the committee. The process of developing the pathway can take a few years. Areas do not need to be public property. Discussion ensued about various areas in town that could be designated for pollinators and their proximity to cornfields which use pesticides. B. Hickey will look into this more and update next month.

L. Peters informed the Commission that she had heard a program about beavers. While most people feel they are a nuisance, they are very beneficial. With climate change happening, beavers can actually bring nine times the amount of water into an aquifer.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor at this time.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 5th day of Jan 2023
at 3:50 o'clock PM
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk

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