



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, January 4, 2022 7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz (*on phone line*)
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:03 p.m.*)
D. West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)

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 7, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West
Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved- Motion Passed
Ayes: Taylor, West, Peters, Sherman, Schultz
Nays: None
Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted a letter received from the Connecticut Land Conservation Council addressed to Town Planner Agresta acknowledging the \$100 contribution made by the Town to the Council. This donation signifies membership in the CLCC and allows members to attend the spring conference.

Chairman Taylor read a letter from Sandra Amato of CCM Public Policy and Advocacy that was forwarded from the First Selectman's office. The Commission of Connecticut's Development & Futures was established to evaluate policies related to land use, conservation, housing and infrastructure boards. They have established working groups and a schedule to assist with this effort and are soliciting members of the public to volunteer. The letter was passed around for anyone who is interested.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a. Adjustment to 2022 Meeting Calendar

Chairman Taylor noted that the change of moving the November 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting to November 3rd was not necessary since Election Day is on November 8th. The meeting will remain on November 1, 2022. No changes need to be filed with the Town Clerk since the error was caught ahead of posting.

b. HWA Project

J. Sherman updated the Commission on the status of the project. Mr. Sherman had sent out questionnaires regarding properties with hemlock trees on them. He received back responses for 16 individual properties. He would like to go visit each property to assess infestations. He is hoping to figure out a mapping method to see the properties in relation to each other and to town properties. He has contacted Glenda Prentiss of NVCOG in hopes of assistance with GIS mapping. Kathy Doyle had given the questionnaire to a member of the Shade Tree Committee who lives between the Weekepeemee River and Sprain Brook. He has been treating hemlocks on his property already for HWA and also elongated hemlock scale. He would like to purchase predator beetles himself for treatment. Unfortunately, the treatment for the scale is an oil that is known to also kill insects. Therefore, it would not be advisable to spend money on predator beetles if he will continue to treat the scale. J. Sherman stated that since the scale is not as deadly to hemlocks as the HWA are, he felt it is more important for the Town to focus any efforts on the HWA. He is contacting Carol Cheah of CT Agricultural Experiment Station for advice on this issue.

Discussion continued amongst the Commissioners regarding the project. J. Sherman was out walking the Trolley Bed property near Bethel Rock. He saw some HWA presence but not infestations. The members agreed that the Aquarian properties need to be assessed since there is separate funding allocated for those areas. The Castle Rock and Sherwood Forest properties will need to be assessed. The members arranged who would be covering each area and how infested trees would be notated. Town properties along the river should also be assessed since protecting the river banks is very important. This work needs to be done over the next few weeks in order to request a line item in the budget, of which the deadline is approaching. The request will need to go through the Land Use Office. Chairman Taylor was wondering if this item should be anticipated and requested each year. The members agreed that it would be a good idea.

Chairman Taylor inquired as to the time frame for ordering the beetles. J. Sherman just received an email today regarding ordering of the beetles, so there is still time to get the order in. It was also noted that several people had asked if they should buy beetles preemptively if they have hemlocks but do not yet have HWA. The beetles should only be purchased for where there is an infestation since they need the adelgids to eat and survive.

c. Open Space Issues (If any)

There were no open space issues at this time.

d. Municipal Composting

L. Peters gave an update to the Commission. She noted that she had sent the composting pages over to the Land Use Office to be posted to the Conservation page. The pages have been forwarded to the webmaster. Unfortunately, nothing has been posted to the website yet. L. Peters also stated how she is looking into two companies for municipal composting. USA Recycling offers a service that will place a large bin at the town transfer station. They also offer home pickup, but the transfer station seemed more desirable. She has requested information on their program and possible referrals from other towns. Black Earth is another company that deals with textiles shoes and yard waste. She will continue to research programs.

e. EDA American Rescue Grant

D. West updated the Commission that with the holidays, she had no new constructive information to add. She will start to work on this initiative again.

f. Library Display

The Commission discussed more about how they would like the display to look and what is to be included. The main displays will be the mining project, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project and open space properties. There was brainstorming on how to present these projects and highlight the Conservation Commission and its objectives. The members should look at the space to get ideas on presentation. Since there are only two meetings left beforehand, ideas should get more solid for the next meeting and materials brought in to organize for the March meeting.

g. Earth Day

Earth Day will be coinciding with the library display. The Commission will have a tent with some tables at Earth Day and will highlight the same projects as the library display. There will be a large map of Open Space properties. There was discussion on how to display composting items. This discussion will continue at the next meeting.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters stated that she had been looking at the POCD and refreshing her mind on what items Conservation was responsible for. She noticed that there are areas where Conservation is involved but not the lead organization. She was frustrated because the document is over a year old and none of the other lead organizations have reached out to Conservation to coordinate efforts on strategies and actions. The Town has spent a considerable amount of money on this document and hopes it will be followed through on and not just sit idle for the next nine years.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Rd., addressed the Commission. Ms. Doyle recommended making the library display appealing to children at a lower level. She pointed out that she notices children will stop on the way upstairs to look at the library display if there is something of interest to them, then the parents stop and read the information. She also recommended having brochure handouts at the display

and Earth Day for the Commission. There should be funding in the budget for education and awareness to have some printed up.

Clerk Robyn Wright suggested having a photograph of the Commission members at the library display. She also noted that review of the POCD is on the agenda for the Planning Commission's January 6th meeting.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman

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

Ayes: Taylor, West, Peters, Sherman, Schultz, Clark

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

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

RECORDED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
Filed JK day of Jan 2022
at 10:35 o'clock A M
Mauro M. Mancini
2022