



# Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 7, 2025  
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

D. Taylor, Chairman  
L. Peters  
J. Sherman  
T. Clark (*arrived 7:06 p.m.*)  
D. West  
W. Ryan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

C. Aberg

**1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

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

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**MOTION:**

To approve the election slate of David Taylor as Chairman and Jeff Sherman as Vice Chairman as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved- Motion Passed

Ayes: West, Peters, Sherman, Taylor, Ryan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**3. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the December 3, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for comments. There were a few corrections as follows:

**MOTION:**

To approve the minutes of the December 3, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- **Section 4.a:** Final sentence should read: “He will speak to Total Estate Care to see if they still take care of Labonne’s garden and if they are interested in the initiative.”
- **Section 4.f:** Correction that C. Aberg is not working on the Charter Revisions.
- **Section 5:** J. Sherman went to a presentation at the CACIWC conference about Natural Resource Inventories where the town of Ridgefield spoke regarding their own natural resource inventory.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved- Motion Passed

Ayes: West, Peters, Sherman, Taylor, Ryan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**4. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS**

Chairman Taylor noted that there are only two meetings before the month of April when the Commission has the library display case along with Earth Day. He would like the members to think about ideas so that they can talk seriously about it next month. D. West thought focusing on the solar presentation along with pollinator pathways would be good subjects.

**5. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**a) General Discussion on Solar Farms**

W. Ryan stated that he had spoken with First Selectman Perkinson regarding making the presentation at the Joint Land Use meeting to be held on January 30, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. He asked for feedback on who in the town he needs to persuade without creating any political issues. The consensus was that the Zoning and Planning Commissions would be more interested in the economic angle to the presentation to see how this can benefit the town. L. Peters stated that there is a survey being performed on 19 acres on Quassapaug Road to put in another solar farm. Discussion continued on getting the other commissions on board so that the town is prepared for this use. With Woodbury being an agrarian town, a balance between farmland and solar farms will need to be found. D. West asked how the Board of Selectmen presentation went. Chairman Taylor stated it went very well. W. Ryan noted that clerk R. Wright had forwarded an article highlighting agrivoltaics for vineyards which was very successful. The main expense of an agrivoltaic field is the wildflower seeds and if there is no State led initiative promoting it then companies have no incentive to donate seeds.

**b) Pollinator Pathway**

D. West stated that there is not a lot to update. The Garden Club will start to inventory the plants they have. Once they have that, it can be determined if there is a need for donated plants, or to grow them from seed. The Garden Club has spoken to Fire Chief Janet Morgan and will take over the garden at the fire house. L. Peters suggested asking some local nurseries about donating some

plants. D. West said that the method will be to figure out what they want and then how to obtain those plants.

**c) HWA Status**

J. Sherman stated that about a month ago there were some below zero temperatures. Even if it drops for a few hours then it can kill a lot of adelgids off. The hemlocks are doing ok. He will wait until the end of February to see how the infestation is. He was up at Nonnewaug Falls with Carol Cheah recently and she recommended several colonies of beetles as a supplement. Any infestations were on new growth. There is some money in the budget for this, but not a lot. He will have a better idea at the next meeting on how many colonies he will need to purchase.

**d) Minortown Project**

J. Sherman left a message with the Public Works department that he would like half of the minortown field mowed. He sent a map directing where to mow. In the spring he would like to walk the property with people who can identify plants to inventory the wildflowers and the invasives. Chairman Taylor noted that there was a line item in the budget for a fence and gate at the property. He hopes it will not get cut.

**e) 2025 Budget Submission**

Chairman Taylor submitted a line item for matching grant funds geared towards Land Use needs. He also submitted for HWA treatments, Minortown Road spraying and a general bucket fund for Earth Day and Town Clean up materials. L. Peters noted that the Invasive Plant booklets put out by the Rivers Coalition will be an expanded edition that will be ready by Earth Day. She will check back in February to see what the cost will be.

**f) Three Rivers Park Restoration**

Chairman Taylor stated that the permit is finally in place. This is a self-governing permit that goes through DEEP and the Army Corp of Engineers. This will allow the town to follow the plan to move the tree and secure it to the bank. After this project, the Committee may try to get a grant for a consultant to make a plan for the rest of the river.

**g) Next Newsletter**

There is nothing to report. L. Peters reached out to C. Aberg.

**h) Open Space Issues**

Chairman Taylor noted that there is damage at Three Rivers and the Trolley Bed. There is a grant opportunity called Forest Restoration. This is a 50-50 matching grant to eventually have a plan to get a forested 50' riparian buffer at Three Rivers. This is just preliminary discussion, but the grant requires a vegetation inventory. This would be a large project that would need volunteers. He is looking for whoever is interested. The project is about what would be needed to make a healthy forest and identifying the change; not the change itself. Discussion commenced about a sub-committee. L. Peters read what the responsibilities are by the State for Conservation Commissions. The Commission is within their rights to make sub-committees or a group of volunteers. She will continue to look into this.

## 6. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters mentioned that she received an email from Cindy Eastham (Annie Musso's mother) about a tree planting or something in Annie's honor. She likes the GW Green. The members discussed what they thought might be a good idea. L. Peters will get back to her and will suggest a pollinator garden with a plaque in Annie's honor.

J. Sherman inquired about if the First Selectman has said anything about a grant writer. Chairman Taylor said there have been short discussions.

J. Sherman also wanted to acknowledge Jacob Barbour who was featured in the Voices recently. Mr. Barbour is a power walker that cleans up around town as he walks. He has collected many bags of garbage and all appreciate his effort. D. West suggested that the Conservation Commission could have an award for those who do extraordinary work. Chairman Taylor will speak to the First Selectman about this.

T. Clark inquired about a budget line for town cleanup. Chairman Taylor stated it is part of a bucket fund for general things. T. Clark also asked about Earth Day, but there is no official date yet.

## 7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Christine McDevitt, 465 Main Street N., recommended an oak tree for Annie Musso's remembrance if a tree was used, since it is a keystone tree and the State tree. They are native and also support 200 species of birds, bees, fungi etc.

Clerk Robyn Wright recommended that after the Joint Land Use meeting, the Commission should put into writing their recommendations for the zoning regulations regarding solar farms. If those are submitted to the Town Planner and the Zoning Commission, there is a greater chance of those being considered.

She also mentioned that several states are working at reducing school cafeteria waste with reusable trays. This is also healthier for the kids rather than putting hot food onto Styrofoam. L. Peters noted that there is a state law going into effect soon that any public schools within a specified range of an anerobic facility must compost their food waste. So, it only makes sense to have less waste all around with the food trays and utensils.

## 8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2025.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

### MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters  
Consensus of the Commission in favor 6-0-0

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 13<sup>th</sup> day of Jan 25  
at 11:00 AM  
*Maria M. Mancini*  
Town Clerk