



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

7:00 p.m., – Senior Center, 265 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
D. West
W. Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

T. Clark
C. Aberg

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the September 3, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for comments. There were none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, West, Ryan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor mentioned that the Taft School will be hosting an environmental symposium again in November. He will forward the details once they are available.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Fall Clean-up

J. Sherman stated that most details are set. Flyers have been posted, signs are up and emails have been sent. He will be at the park at 8:00 a.m. He believes the cub scouts are coming. He will contact the police to notify them to keep watch over the cub scouts. Discussion commenced on what roads and areas to focus on. L. Peters has smaller bags for kids. Everyone is to bring their full bags to the park after so that a photo can be taken. The members coordinated their efforts on when and how to provide the pizzas for the volunteers.

b) Trail Monitor Education

John Trainor, head of Flanders Land Management Committee is having some educational sessions for Flanders monitors. He has invited the Conservation Commission to attend. Basic information such as what to look for will be covered. Chairman Taylor would like to know who is interested.

c) Pollinator Pathway

D. West has been collaborating with Nancy Taylor of the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club on this initiative. Nancy Taylor was present to participate in this discussion. They have been working with some project mentors from the Cheshire Garden Club. They have put together a proposal to start with gardens that already meet the criteria of having only native plants and are pesticide free. Special signs designating it as a pollinator pathway garden will be put up. The focus will be on Route 6, Main Street, initially running from the George Washington Green down to the North Green. The library garden will be included. N. Taylor stated that she went to the PVGC board and was able to secure \$100 towards the emblem signs. The hope is to collaborate to have a guest speaker to help kick off the program for the town. Once the program is established, they will contact business owners and residents along the path to educate on how they can also participate in the program. D. West mentioned that even container gardens can qualify.

Chairman Taylor suggested that Jamie at the Parks & Rec Department be notified so that they are aware and understand the maintenance and care involved. L. Peters suggested that the Old Town Hall pots can be used also. D. West noted that at Earth Day people were encouraged to put their names on a list if they had a pollinator garden. Once the program is established, those people can be contacted so their gardens can be registered also. Chairman Taylor suggested speaking to the Glebe House to see if Jekyll Gardens meets the criteria. L. Peters stated that it would be helpful to generate a list of native plants in the spring and even ask garden centers to advertise native plants.

d) CACIWC

Chairman Taylor noted that the CACIWC conference will be held on November 16, 2024. He asked for any interested members to let him know.

e) Fawn Meadow Solar Farm

Chairman Taylor passed out a letter that he submitted today to the Connecticut Siting Council regarding the Greenskies solar project. He noted that the Zoning Commission had also submitted an extensive letter requesting certain conditions be met. L. Peters wondered if the Inlands Wetlands Agency had submitted a letter as well. It was noted that DEEP guidelines show there should be space between the panels. The panels on this application are spaced very close together

which would mean a loss of the secondary agricultural aspect. If the panels are too close together it results in a drainage problem as rainwater flows off the panels to potentially create a vernal pool.

W. Ryan noted that the states of Minnesota and Massachusetts have now signed it into law to give incentives to solar farms who farm or have meadows with an agricultural benefit. Chairman Taylor recommended going to the State Representative to see about enacting incentives like that in CT. Later in the meeting, W. Ryan volunteered to help with anything on this initiative. He mentioned the Arnold Arboretum in Boston has been very successful in using agrivoltaics which is growing food or grazing animals on solar farms. Supposedly, UCONN is working on a similar program.

f) Stomski Way

J. Sherman stated that the spraying of the Japanese Knotweed is taking place on October 11, 2024. He mentioned that resident Dennis Roberts had asked about the fence that was supposed to be going in. Chairman Taylor said that the fence had unintentionally been dropped as a line item in the budget and will need to be revisited next year.

g) Three Rivers Park Restoration

Chairman Taylor stated that the Ad-hoc Committee had a meeting yesterday with Trout Scapes. The plan is to trim down the tree that is in the river. The root ball and a 30 foot section of the tree will be left, moved over to the bank, and anchored down with rocks. Eventually the river brings silt to fill in. He noted that the river is already starting to mend itself at the southern section where the flood plain is. There is a plan to obtain plants and stabilize the area. The permit will be in writing in about a week or so. Trout Scapes is confident to have the project complete this fall. D. West would like to communicate to the public all that the town is doing. Chairman Taylor said that can happen once there is visible progress.

h) Next Newsletter

T. Clark and C. Aberg were not present to provide any updates.

i) Open Space Issues

Chairman Taylor and W. Ryan had walked the Trolley Bed and stated it was a mess. They noted the damage to the Parks & Rec Department. L. Peters mentioned the Natural Resources Conservation Services and wondered if that program can be used for the Trolley Bed. It was a topic at the Board of Selectmen meeting. The Town would need to supply 25% of the cost if the grant is obtained. First Selectman Perkinson was very interested.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters stated that she has spoken to Cindy Eastman regarding a memorial for Annie Musso. Washington Park was mentioned. It was decided that D. West will speak with the Garden Club and the Parks & Rec Department to get some ideas. The idea of a pollinator garden in her honor was considered.

D. West is interested in having a program about the "Follow the Forest" initiative explaining what it is, a strategy, and how widespread it is. The consensus was that this is a good idea. D. West will talk to Marla

at the library to see if they are interested in coordinating the program. She also hopes that the town's successes could be mentioned in a newsletter.

J. Sherman was up at Nonnewaug Falls and noted that the water flow is lower. There is a big tree down in the pool but it is on the Bethlehem side, so nothing can be done. The Bethlehem side is covered in quad and dirt bike trails. The property owner has put up some signs but does not enforce them. Unfortunately, these activities will create erosion. He said that the Hemlocks looked good and there were no signs of Hemlock Woolly Adelgids.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2024.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman
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 Oct 2024
at 11:35 o'clock A M
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk