

Town of Woodbury
Conservation Commission
281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 067989

**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCT8BER 26, 2017**

Members in attendance:

D. Taylor D. Leavenworth
A. Musso
L. Peters

Members absent:

J. King
S. Hobson
J. Sherman

Also attending: First Selectman Butterly, members of the public.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:04 am. A quorum was established.

Minutes – L. Peters moved to accept the September 28 meeting minutes, seconded by A. Musso. Minutes unanimously approved.

New Business

2018 Meeting Schedule – Chairman Taylor asked for input on a draft meeting schedule for 2018. Meetings will continue to be at 8 am on the fourth Thursday of each month, with an exception for November/December. He suggested combining the November and December meetings into one meeting on Dec. 6. He also noted that he will not be available for the May meeting, which he said could be run by another Commissioner. All agreed to the schedule as discussed.

CACIWC – The annual meeting of the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions will be on Nov. 18 in Cromwell. D. Leavenworth, L. Peters and D. Taylor will attend.

POCD Planning Update – Chairman Taylor explained that he and A. Milnor from Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust attended the last Planning Commission meeting and provided information about Flanders land management and acquisition. D. Taylor will attend the next Planning Commission meeting to discuss more topics related to conservation. He said there will likely not be a hired consultant to help with the plan. D. Leavenworth expressed concern that there was not more information out to the public on the importance of input. A. Musso noted that she has seen comments on social media that indicate people know something is being surveyed, but that they are not informed as to what it is exactly. She said she is not sure what is the best way to share the information. L. Peters said email has gone out to some people on town distribution lists. D. Leavenworth said the Commission should put together a list of important subjects. D. Taylor wants to address contiguous open space, protection of open space, and riparian area buffers in locations such as Three Rivers Park. D. Leavenworth also added that high priority open space targets/zones should be addressed. D. Taylor said Commissioners should review maps and possibly invite Flanders representatives to a meeting to discuss these areas. L. Peters suggested land management should be included in the POCD. D. Taylor showed maps of the Sherwood property that will go to Town Meeting vote soon. He noted that he had met with Parks and Rec. and showed them the map with its access to Castle Rock. The current POCD lists the area where this property is located as a desired protection area. It is somewhat steep, and good for trails but not fields. There could also be access to the Marc Taylor Memorial Greenway area via O&G property, so this could be a significant hiking area. He noted that recreational trails in an area can raise home values. Deed restrictions would be desirable, and Chair Taylor will discuss this with Planning as well.

Old Business

Newsletter – A. Musso said she has not yet received the articles to put together the newsletter. Invasive plants will be the subject.

Open Space – First Selectman Butterly joined the meeting to discuss the sign for the Trolley Bed Preserve, which is in process. Chairman Taylor has the Town open space listing, but there is not a method established yet for how to maintain and update it. He will bring the list in next meeting. Also, he noted that open space parcels sometimes turn into parks (actively managed or not) under the management of Parks and Rec. Perhaps there should be different management for true open space areas. He asked for any ideas on this topic.

Low Impact Development – D. Leavenworth said Morris has received their copy of their LID report from S. Hayden, and D. Leavenworth will get a copy. Woodbury should be next for getting a report done.

Invasive Plants – D. Leavenworth said there is a “runaway” stand of bamboo near Bear Hill Road that a resident pointed out. Chair Taylor said the correspondence has some information on who to contact if there are invasive species found.

Nonnewaug Falls – This is one area that needs protection; it is currently (technically) unprotected by deed.

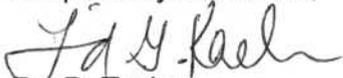
Member Time – L. Peters looked into the Roundup issue. She said State statutes exempt municipalities from having to provide notice of applications. Safety issues with pesticides were discussed, including whether the Town could have its own policies for worker safety and public notification. L. Peters will forward a link to a New Haven Register article with more information.

Correspondence – K. Faroni letter to Town re: renewal of earth removal permit for Park/Stiles Road quarries- Zoning hearing on Nov. 14 at 7:30 in the Shove Building. Audubon magazine.

Privilege of the Floor – Helena from Quassuk Road read an environmentalist's quote and said she is concerned about amphibians being hit on the roads and that she would like to see their seasonal migrations and their rights protected. She would like to see volunteer brigades formed to help with road crossings or have signs and detours established. Educational programs in schools and Flanders could be established. She would like the Conservation Commission to help. Chair Taylor said he was not sure a Town Commission is the best way to get a project like this done. He said a private group may be a better place to approach this. He asked if the group from New Hampshire that has done this had any reference materials, and he asked her to put together a more concrete proposal. K. Doyle said she would like to see a permanent Open Space Committee. She would also like to see a piece of land purchased near Nonnewaug Falls for access/parking. She also said she would like to see money from timber harvesting or agricultural leases go into an open space fund for management. She will put her suggestions in writing. Ms. Doyle also expressed concern about the Roundup discussion, and she suggested that the Storm water management plan might address this.

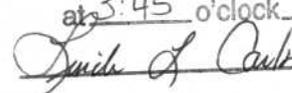
L. Peters moved to adjourn; seconded by A. Musso. Unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



For D. Taylor,
Linda Kaelin, Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 30th day of Oct 2017
at 3:45 o'clock P M

Town Clerk