



**TOWN OF WOODBURY**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
281 Main Street South  
Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyct.org

**Woodbury Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 5, 2021**  
7:00 p.m., Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

D. Schultz  
A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)  
T. Clark

**1. DETERMINATION OF QUOROM**

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

**2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the September 7, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. Chairman Taylor stated that it should be amended that member A. Musso is on a leave of absence.

**MOTION:**

To approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as amended.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman  
Vote: 3-0-1 – Approved – Motion Passed  
Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman  
Nays: None  
Abstain: West

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Taylor noted the Conservation Conversation to be presented at the Johnson Farm Preserve in Washington, CT on October 15, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. This property is part

of Connecticut Farmland Trust. There will be a walk and conservation talk most likely on how to preserve farm land property by purchasing easements.

Chairman Taylor gave a list of presentations that will be occurring at Flanders Nature Center. One will be about the emerald ash borer in CT; another one will be about developing a plan for herbicide and pesticide use on land trusts.

Chairman Taylor stated that he met with the head of the Southbury Land Trust. The Trust will be purchasing a piece of property in northern Southbury off Old Waterbury Road known as the Bothwell Farm. There are three parcels that total approximately 33 acres. The property abuts the Trolley Bed property. The land is an animal passage greenway; there is a pond and streamlets that flow into the Trolley Bed property. The water is class AA. The Trust is hoping that Chairman Taylor will submit a letter for the record showing approval of this purchase.

Chairman Taylor welcomed new member Dorothy West.

#### **4. CURRENT BUSINESS**

**a. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid talk 9/28**

Dr. Cheah had given a virtual presentation regarding the HWA. At least 41 people were in attendance. The members commented on what a great presentation it was. J. Sherman is hopeful that momentum is building on this topic throughout the State.

**b. Town Clean-up recap**

J. Sherman stated that it was a mediocre turn out for the town clean-up. He attributes it to the lack of the BBQ. There were at least 12 people registered online, but he knows other people helped out who did not register. He is hopeful to do the BBQ at the spring clean-up and thereby bring in more people.

**c. Mapping Hemlock Stands**

Chairman Taylor noted that he has not received any additional calls regarding hemlocks. J. Sherman stated that he can send out information to those on the Conservation email list. He knows there is a lot of interest. The adelgid become active in November and so will be more easily identified. Discussion ensued regarding getting more information out to the public, perhaps with posters. The information would need to have who to contact. Chairman Taylor will talk to First Selectman Perkinson to see if the Conservation Commission can have a town email address. The data and GPS locations of any trees would need to be collected. Discussion continued about including the Vo-Ag or science programs from the high school. Many students are required to do a certain amount of volunteer work. The parameters of the project would need to be mapped out first.

The Commission considered speaking with Flanders to see how they are handling the adelgids and possibly collaborate. Flanders is having a property monitoring

training program next week. J. Sherman will be giving a short talk at the program. There are also regional land trust meetings where towns could help each other out. The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) could be a resource. The Commission then realized they had not heard anything about the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) annual conference. The Highstead group of Redding was also mentioned for maintaining environmental areas. D. West has a contact there that she will reach out to. Chairman Taylor asked for the members to gather information and ideas on how to organize the project for the next meeting.

**d. Open Space Issues (if any)**

Chairman Taylor noted that he needs to check on the northern aquarion area after speaking with the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) about adjusting the trail they made.

L. Peters noted that areas need to be checked since the storms. She was at the river near Route 317 and noticed a lot of rocks near the river and no garbage. She believes a lot of rocks and garbage got washed downstream as there was a lot of erosion. D. West stated that when walking at Three Rivers Park today there was a lot of erosion on the banks. It is especially noticeable on the trail between the pond and the river. If someone steps off trail, they could end up in the river. Chairman Taylor noted he has had discussions with First Selectman Perkinson about fixing the river that do not involve guard rails. However, it is a huge project even with grant money, so there is a reluctance to pursue this avenue by the Town.

Chairman Taylor then brought up the idea of having a group of property monitors to document issues and get to the proper department for maintenance. He would need to go over this with the First Selectman before going public and verify if there needs to be any type of release form for the volunteers. There used to be an Open Space Committee that reported to the Conservation Commission. The idea is to have a public volunteer committee attached to the Commission. D. West suggested looking at monitoring programs already in place as a model. Members should do a little homework on this topic for next month.

**e. Oklahoma Winds**

L. Peters presented information she learned about wind turbines while visiting family in Oklahoma. One cousin has some turbines on his property and another of her family members helped to work on the turbines during construction. The turbines are 400 to 600 feet tall. The blades arrive intact, the towers are in sections. There is a lot of land excavation for the anchoring of the turbines. All computer technology and mechanics that move the blades are at the top of the turbine. Mechanics can reel down the tower in case of emergency in the construction phase. There is an elevator installed once they are completed. The monitoring and maintenance can be done primarily remotely. The cost of each tower is approximately 4 million dollars. The turbines are owned by the power

company and the land is leased. The transmission lines are all underground. The cattle graze under the turbines, so they do not disturb the farming. Her cousin said that while he enjoys the monthly income from the lease, he does prefer the vista he had before. Discussion continued about the blades and what happens when they wear out and other new technology for smaller turbines. L. Peters will put together her videos and pictures for a show and tell presentation.

**f. Municipal Composting**

L. Peters gave an update on the composting project. She had made revisions to her previous document, however no one received them. She will resend the new version for feedback from the Commission and will then forward the information to be posted on the website. She contacted the professor C. Forest McDowell, who wrote the brochure she took some information from. He gave written permission to publish the four pages on the Conservation Commission website. He also stated the brochures can be purchased for \$2.50 if the Commission would like some to hand out. Discussion continued getting member D. West up to date with the project. What other municipalities have been able to do was also considered. The idea of getting restaurants involved was considered. However, the project will start with home-based composting since there would be a high set up cost for the Town.

**g. Sustainable CT**

There has not been any new information on this initiative from the Town Planner. The Commission will invite the new Town Planner to a meeting to get acquainted and also go over if there are any other implementations needed from the Conservation Commission for the POCD.

**h. Riparian Project at Three Rivers**

There is nothing new on this project at the moment. The Commission will keep encouraging others to move this project forward.

**i. Potential OS Properties**

There was no new information on this topic at this time. Chairman Taylor filled member D. West in on the possibility of turning the Park Hill Quarry into Open Space.

## **5. MEMBER TIME**

D. West inquired as to a way to get the riparian project going. Chairman Taylor explained how the Army Corp will reinforce the bank but will not repair the riparian. The Commission explained how it is hard to move the project forward.

## **6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Rd., addressed the Commission. Ms. Doyle noted that CACIWC is holding their annual conference on November 6, 2021. She stated that she always enjoys the information that Conservation and Inlands Wetlands learns from the conference. Ms. Doyle also noted that the Commission needs to be sure to get any funding needed for the HWA project in for the 2022 budget. She also pointed out that the most recent newsletter is not up on the Conservation page of the Town website.

Ms. Doyle noted that on the Parks and Recreation October newsletter, they were asking for volunteers for trail monitoring and light maintenance. It would be good to coordinate efforts. She also recommended reserving the community cabinet located in the library for the month of April being that it is earth month. It could be used as a way to highlight and display initiatives of the Conservation Commission.

Robyn Wright, Clerk for the Commission stated that there was a home composting presentation in Bethlehem mentioned in the paper. She also informed the Commission that the O&G agent has projected the anticipated life of the quarry at around 10 years.

## **7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman Taylor noted he is working on the book recommendation of "Water: A Biography." D. West recommended the book "Land."

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4, 2021, due to the election. Nomination of Officers will take place at this meeting.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION:**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters.

Vote: 4-0-0 – Approved

Ayes: Taylor, Sherman, Peters, West

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robyn Wright*

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Robyn Wright  
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

RECEIVED & FILED  
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 7<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 2021  
at 11:37 o'clock A M

*Jim DeCarlo*  
Town Clerk