



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798
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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
T. Clark (*on phone line*)
D. West
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Sherman

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the October 6, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. The Commission complimented the minutes.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the October 6, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by C. Aberg

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Clark, West, Hickey, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to consider at this time.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Minortown Road**

Chairman Taylor stated that J. Sherman had submitted a partially complete application for the property to the IWA. He obtained a lot of feedback to find out exactly what will be needed for the application. It will take some time to get everything in order to submit a complete application. A detailed proposal is needed by a contractor on how the knotweed will be dealt with in the spring. Once the plan for the knotweed is settled, then the focus can be on the other aspects of the project. At that point other groups such as the Shade Tree & Sidewalk Committee and the Garden Club can be involved for planning plantings. There is a lot of support for this project.

b) **Municipal Composting**

L. Peters gave an update to the Commission. She had attended the CACIWC convention. She listened to a seminar on trash, recycling and reusing. She spoke to a DEEP representative and inquired as to when the pilot composting program would get started or educational materials would arrive to get the public prepared. The representative stated it was still very early; therefore the indications are that everything is delayed. She also obtained some literature and pamphlets that she passed around to the other members.

c) **HWA Season**

Chairman Taylor notified the members that it will soon be the season to go and scout around for evidence of the adelgids in order to plan for the coming year. He and L. Peters attended Carol Cheah's presentation at CACIWC. She mentioned she will be returning to Nonnewaug Falls to monitor the progress.

d) **POCD Status**

1. Chairman Taylor opened the discussion with what recommendations could be made to the Zoning and Planning Commissions. One would be to implement LID (low impact development) practices. The basic premise is to get the water back into the ground as fast as possible to reduce run off. This would mean less paving. Often times this can save developers money. The initiative would be to focus on developers and thereby help educate the residents.
2. B. Hickey spoke of how higher density development would be beneficial to the town rather than everyone sprawling out. It would be good to prepare for a larger population that may come in the future from climate migration. The town residents of course have differing views on the topic of higher density housing. Chairman Taylor asked B. Hickey to prepare some information on the topic. He also noted that if this is what the future holds, then the Commission should look at protected and unprotected open space areas. They may want to get some areas under protected status. D. West brought up about having a strategic, long-term plan for open space areas coordinated with the Parks & Recreation Department. Chairman Taylor asked her to outline a plan.
3. It was determined that the newer members needed copies of the POCD summary and table. Chairman Taylor noted that there have been changes for handicap accessibility since the POCD was made and that need to be addressed. He also noted that some of the items that the Conservation Commission was to assist with are hard for them to accomplish or are too vague. D. West was interested in how the town can get organized and actually accomplish

some initiatives. Chairman Taylor stated that the Land Use commission meetings could maybe get groups and departments together in order to figure out what to focus on.

4. Chairman Taylor stated that he will send over a status report on POCD items to the Planning Commission. This discussion will be carried over once the other members have their copies to go through. He noted that the Commission should be proud of what they have been able to accomplish.

e) Open Space Issues

There were no issues to discuss at this time.

f) Newsletter Revival

Chairman Taylor stated that the Commission should start having the newsletter again. He asked for any volunteers to work on it. C. Aberg stated that she could help with that.

g) 2023 Calendar and Phone-in Option Review

The Commission reviewed the draft 2023 calendar schedule for meetings.

MOTION:

To approve the 2023 Conservation Commission Annual Meeting Schedule as amended:

- The order of the months of July and August be corrected
- The November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by B. Hickey

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Clark, West, Hickey, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Discussion continued regarding if the phone-in option should still be used. Most members are happy to have the option especially as winter is coming up. However, the option is very rarely used which results in music playing throughout the meeting. The Commission decided to have it noted on the agenda that the phone will be disconnected if no one has tied in by 7:10 p.m.

MOTION:

To keep the phone-in option for meetings with a disconnect time if unused by 7:10 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Clark, West, Hickey, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters was trying to read through the PRWC plan to see what Woodbury should be doing to support it. It was recommended that she make contact with the PRWC and ask them what they feel are the key

things the town of Woodbury should do. She also strongly recommended attending the CACIWC and CLCC conventions when they come up to the newer members because they are such good information.

B. Hickey stated that the Shade Tree & Sidewalk Committee will be working with Public Works to make a tree plan for the town. The plan will include using native plants and also appropriate plantings on the right of ways. The Committee would like to create this plan in conjunction with the Conservation Commission. They would like to meet together in January. He also noted that the new Norway Spruce Christmas tree will be planted on the North green tomorrow, November 2nd at noon.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Robyn Wright, Clerk, stated that the Zoning Commission had received Conservation’s native plant proposal. The Town Planner was instructed to invite some representatives from Conservation to make a presentation at some point on the topic. She also noted that Zoning tries to implement some LID practices, so those recommendations would most likely be favorably met.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:32 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

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 3 day of NOV 2022
at 12:25 o'clock P.M.
Maria Mancini
Town Clerk

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