

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

**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

Members in attendance:

D. Taylor
A. Musso
L. Peters
J. Sherman

Members absent:

D. Leavenworth
S. Hobson
(1 position open)

Also attending: K. Doyle.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:01 am. A quorum was established.

Minutes – L. Peters moved to accept the October 26 meeting minutes, seconded by J. Sherman. L. Peters noted that the magazine distributed was CT Wildlife, not Audubon. D. Taylor noted that J. King has resigned, and that under invasive plants the comment about information on reporting referred specifically to the mile-a-minute vine. Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

New Business

OSWA Photo Contest – Chairman Taylor spoke about the Open Space Watershed Protection Agency Land Grant Program (under DEEP), which is sponsoring a photo contest for photographs taken on or from land funded by this program. He noted that Woodbury has around 1000 acres funded by the program, including the Trolley Bed Preserve, the Minortown Road property and the Goodhill Road property. He believes not many people know this, and the contest could be a way to help publicize/inform the public. He will forward the link to Commissioners. Chair Taylor also recommended adding a communication line to the continuing agenda or to add this to the newsletter

Chair Taylor moved up the discussion of the newsletter on the agenda.

Newsletter – Discussion was held about possibly including the above-mentioned photo contest and related information on open space in the next newsletter. Invasives will be the next topic; J. Sherman will forward the articles from S. Hobson to A. Musso for layout. L. Peters suggested adding the information about identifying and reporting mile-a-minute vine to UConn. Discussion was held on what the State/Town would do about reported invasive plants, and what authority the Town has, if any, on private property. Chairman Taylor will discuss this with Public Works and the First Selectman.

POCD- OS Discussion with Planning – Chairman Taylor went to the November 1 Planning Commission meeting and discussed with them information on open space protection, including the Sherwood property as an example. He felt the response was positive. He distributed a section of the chart produced by the Open Space Committee with a summary of open space parcels and protection status. Planning requested that Mr. Taylor return to discuss priorities for protecting Town-owned land. Priorities were discussed. Parcels around the Trolley Bed Preserve and Nonnewaug Falls were mentioned as important. J. Sherman asked what the procedure would be to get these protected. Chairman Taylor said that would have to be set up, as there is not one currently. He noted that deciding what to put in easements is also important to discuss. L. Peters suggested looking at other easements for guidance. Chair Taylor suggested that each property should be evaluated for what the Town wants the property to be. A. Musso suggested starting with a group walk and discussion at Nonnewaug Falls to develop those ideas. A walk was tentatively agreed upon on Dec. 3 at 10:30. Chairman Taylor also reiterated that there is currently no process for keeping the open space listing up to date. If someone asks to have a property included, they should be asked for map/block/lot and deed listing

information as proof of a recorded restriction. He reported that Flanders is currently reviewing all their properties for restriction information, and he would like to see the Town do the same review to see if restrictions on easements are sufficient/appropriate. Chair Taylor said there is also a list of easements held by the Town on properties not owned by the Town, noting that the Town is obligated to enforce the easement conditions. J. Sherman asked if anyone is monitoring these, and, if not, who should be. Chair Taylor said this needs to be determined. Neighbors of open space properties may be interested in volunteering to monitor and report on conditions, but how to organize and follow up the reporting is the question. All agreed that Nonnewaug Falls should be the top priority for protection. J. Sherman reported that a walk to the cave at the Trolley Bed Preserve has been set up with the former State Archaeologist. This will be Dec. 5 at 10:30.

Old Business

Open Space – The Board of Finance did not endorse the purchase of the Sherwood Property, so that purchase will need a 2/3 vote at the Town Meeting for approval.

Low Impact Development – J. Sherman has a PDF copy of the 80-page Morris LID report produced by Sean Hayden of NW Conservation District. It is also online on the Town of Morris website. Chairman Taylor said he asked the Planning Commission to include more detailed discussion about LID in the POCD.

Invasive Plants – See above.

Nonnewaug Falls – Chairman Taylor would like to expand this agenda item to include all unprotected open space properties.

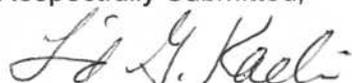
Member Time – J. Sherman shared thoughts about mountain biking on the Trolley Bed Preserve after having an informal discussion with a member of the New England Mountain Biking Association. This individual said that in order for that property to be used for mountain biking, new trails on the lower and northern parts of the property would have to be laid out, avoiding the walking corridor, as the current trail is not very interesting for mountain biking. Discussion took place about erosion concerns and how this decision would be made. Chairman Taylor said any trail construction begins with Park and Rec review and would need to go through Inland Wetlands.

Correspondence – PRWC newsletter (photo of D. Leavenworth receiving an award).

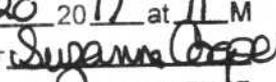
Privilege of the Floor – K. Doyle said C. Haskins from PRWC has requested an Earth Day event date of April 21, and she suggested trying to get this date in the newsletter. She reiterated that she would like to see an Open Space subcommittee of the Conservation Commission permanently established. She said reports have been received of a family of bears at the Trolley Bed Preserve. She also noted that when a plan was being done by Park and Rec for Three Rivers it had to go before Zoning for a special permit. Ms. Doyle said Park and Rec Commission members are supposed to be reviewing the Brawley management report to become familiar with the issues. She asked if specific items such as restriction of horseback riding or types of agricultural crops could be included in easements. Ms. Doyle also spoke about the POCD survey summary, which is included in the Planning Commission minutes of 11/1. Open Space remains a high priority of those responding. She added that she hopes the Town moves slowly on establishing uses for the Trolley Bed Preserve.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Kaelin, Clerk

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
Nov 20 2017 at 11:30 AM
ATTEST: 
TOWN CLERK WOODBURY CT