



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019 8:00 A.M. – SHOVE BUILDING, 281 MAIN ST. SOUTH

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz (*left at 9:31 a.m.*)
L. Peters
J. Sherman
L. Arno (*left at 9:45 a.m.*)
L. Pittari
A. Musso (*left at 8:56 a.m.*)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

MOTION:

L. Peters made a motion and L. Arno seconded to approve the minutes of the November meeting as amended:

- Page 3, item (f), 2nd bullet: change the words Super Intendent to one word (Superintendent)

Vote: 7-0-0. The November meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor informed the Commission of the Joint Land Use meeting being held Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Chairman Taylor informed the Commission of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council meeting being held on January 9, 2020. This is an invitation for Land Trusts. The event is an all-day affair in Hartford as a climate primer for any interested in attending.
- Chairman Taylor informed the Commission that Earth Day is May 2, 2020.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Nominating Committee for 2020 officers

- Chairman Taylor addressed the Commission regarding the January voting of officers for the Commission. The members all agreed to a voice vote rather than paper ballots. J. Sherman was appointed as the nominating committee. The Commission was instructed to contact J. Sherman directly if they would like to be Chairman or Vice Chairman. D. Taylor and J. Sherman stated they would continue in their positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman if it pleases everyone.

b) Woodbury Mine Project

- J. Sherman addressed the Commission. He stated that he and Mr. Mike Sandone had brought the samples from the mining project to John Pawloski the Curator at the CT Museum of Mining and Mineral Science. J. Sherman presented a transcription of the findings of the project as per his conversation with Mr. Pawloski. The samples were evidence of a copper mine in very small veins.
- J. Sherman then presented Public Records for the Colony of Connecticut dated 1726-1735 and 1744-1750. There was correspondence to the Britain Board of Trade. In both instances, Britain questioned "How was the mining?" The response was that there was copper however not in commercial quantities, so they would be continuing with iron. This record coincides with the findings of Mr. Pawloski.
- Mr. Pawloski will be sending the rocks out for chemical analysis. J. Sherman stated that his next steps are to put together a summary report and conclusion that will be displayed with samples in the library. Mr. Sandone is compiling a documentary and a 10 minute segment regarding this mine project will be available in January. There is one other addit in town, however due to the fact that it is on privately owned property and is also under water Mr. Sherman will not be pursuing this project any further.

c) Conservation Talks

- L. Pittari gave an update to the Commission regarding some speakers that are willing to participate in the program. The Director of the Housatonic Recycling Resource Association will be available in February. She has not given a specific date as of yet. There would be no fee charged for the presentation. The information would cover what can be recycled, how it is recycled and why. It will focus on what else residents could be doing in the form of recycling. L. Pittari and L. Peters will work together to plan the programs in accord with Town calendars.
- A second opportunity is Carol Haskins of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, who is proposing to discuss the Pomperaug River and river dynamics and processes in the month of March. While the Commission feels this is a good topic, it will need to be marketed in a way to appeal to the public, such as in regards to water conservation and the climate crisis.
- J. Sherman noted that another option is a lecture from the Connecticut Geological Society and would like to consider that for the month of April. A. Musso would like to bring someone from Sustainable Connecticut to come to make a presentation regarding how the Town has achieved bronze status and what that means. D. Schultz mentioned that he had met

some people that could make presentations on pests or old forests. He will try to establish contact with them. D. Taylor mentioned that Carol Haskins also has a contact with someone who does riparian work which could be an interesting topic. It was mentioned to have a sign in sheet which also asked if people would like to volunteer. The Commission would also like to have a direct email address from the town.

d) Trout Unlimited Project

- D. Taylor spoke regarding the project. It will be a Conservation project that will be run in phases. It is a Trout Unlimited project and they have funds available from the national organization. The additional groups involved in the planning of the project are the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, Kyle Turoczi from the Inlands / Wetlands Association and Maryellen Edwards, the Town Planner. The project will be from the route 47 bridge and work the Nonnewaug River down to where the rivers come together. The work will begin in the spring. The project consists of planting trees (mainly sycamores) along the banks to shore them up and to provide cover of the river. Further riparian work will be performed where the banks have washed out. Safer access will also be made. Discussion ensued amongst the Commissioners regarding how the natural course of the river had been altered by engineers in 1938, so that is what is being maintained. However, there might be a discussion as to whether to let the Three Rivers area return to a flood plain to help relieve pressure off of areas down river.
- D. Taylor also noted that the Woodbury Shade Tree and Sidewalk Committee have some funds that they will use towards the project. Trout Unlimited does bring in their own volunteers, however for the latter phases the town may need to bring in volunteers. There are also two other grants that the town is applying for in hopes of continuing the project down river from one bridge to the next.

e) Earth Day

- D. Taylor mentioned that the Watershed Coalition and the Conservation Commission would like to encourage groups to have a more earth centered message for the festival as opposed to a vendor message. He is requesting that the members start putting together some thoughts on exhibits and activities that will appeal to kids and engage people into the focus of the day. Some ideas such as a scavenger hunt or a trivia wheel were discussed.

f) Open Space Brochure

- Discussion ensued amongst the Commission regarding any ideas for the open space brochure. Some items that need to be decided on are if the brochure will highlight all open space or only accessible areas with trails; whether the brochure will include the Park and Recreation areas; and whether the brochure will include the Flander's, Whittemore and Roxbury Land Trust areas.
- The consensus was that the Commission needed to decide the purpose of the brochure, if it is to primarily promote awareness of the open spaces or to promote usage. The brochure could list all of the properties but with the focus on the areas that have trails. The discussion led to the State mandates which are that the towns should have 21-24% of protected open space. Currently Woodbury is at 15.1%. This led to discussion of Strong field and its possible uses.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

- There was no time for further discussion.

6. MEMBER TIME

- J. Sherman informed the Commission that there was an archeological site found in Avon, CT. There is an article in the Hartford Courant about the site. Artifacts have been found that indicate a 12,500 year old site. Shippa (State Historical Preservation Office) is conducting a dig currently. The conversation led to the discussion of the Rye Hill Site which was on Route 6 in 1965. Artifacts were found there but the site was ultimately bulldozed prior to the National Historical Preservation Act that Congress passed in 1966 that would have stopped the work. The artifacts found there indicated a 4,000 year old site.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

- There were no comments from the floor.

8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- The next Conservation Commission meeting will be held January 23, 2020.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

L. Peters made a motion to adjourn, J. Sherman seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 23 day of Dec 20 19
at 3:30 o'clock P M

Glinda A. Cook
Town Clerk

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