

Town of Woodbury
Conservation Commission
281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798

**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2017**

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent:

S. Hobson

Also attending: K. Doyle, M. Devino, R. Wolf, E. Davis.

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

Minutes – L. Peters moved to approve the November meeting minutes; seconded by J. Sherman. Unanimously approved.

Privilege of the Floor – Messrs. Wolf, Devino and Davis asked for feedback on a revised plan for site work and parking at 641 Main Street South. They showed past plans with later revisions based on discussions with numerous groups including this Commission, Inland Wetlands and PRWC. The new parking area is now planned to be completely out of the conservation easement area. An agreement has been made with Wells Fargo for employee and valet parking. R. Wolf explained the improved storm water management and reduction of paving, tree clearing and grading. Improvements to the retention basin will allow for treatment/filtration of runoff with no release during storm periods. The hydrodynamic separator will be left in place. D. Leavenworth explained why this area is so environmentally sensitive. D. Taylor asked about the esker; Mr. Wolf said the impact would be minimized by a boulder wall, and Mr. Devino added that a full landscape plan with native plants will be completed. D. Leavenworth asked about the septic system health and whether water quality monitoring wells would be considered. Mr. Devino said the septic is being used well within capacity, and that he had done some research on test wells but had not made a plan for them at this time.

New Business –

Earth Day – The Earth Day event will be on April 21, 2018. Chair Taylor would like to address the frequently heard statement that “we don’t do anything with our open space” by providing photos and information on various town-owned properties and why they are important, what is being planned and how they will be protected and managed. He will request new O/S maps from COG.

POCD – Chair Taylor will go back to meet again with Planning about open space protection.

Sherwood Property – Chair Taylor said the Conservation Commission will be given the lead on managing this newly acquired property. L. Peters suggested contacting Yale Forestry for graduate students to help design trails and management plans, since they need to do projects for their course completion. Chair Taylor distributed a sample outline management plan. He asked Commissioners to consider uses for this and the Castle Rock properties. He noted that

the boundaries need to be marked. J. Sherman will assist, but needs the right maps from COG that he can use in his GPS app. There is a current A2 survey for the Sherman property.

Ongoing Business

Newsletter – J. Sherman will send files to A. Musso, who has set up the template for publishing the newsletter. A. Musso said she would print some hard copies for the library.

Open Space Properties – Chair Taylor said that the Sherwood property needs to be named. He favors Sherwood Forest. D. Leavenworth suggested Sherwood's Forest. Chair Taylor asked if Commissioners had other open space properties they thought should be included on a list of town-owned properties needing protection. Castle Rock, Orenaug Park, the Hollow and Three Rivers were mentioned in addition to those regularly discussed. Chair Taylor would like to review this list at meetings to discuss updates/issues that arise and to document problems. J. Sherman can help with boundary identification when he gets the correct maps. Chair Taylor noted that Park and Rec. will be talking with NEMBA mountain biking group at an upcoming meeting, and he would like to send a letter with the Conservation Commission's concerns about this type of biking at the Trolley Bed Preserve. L. Arno expressed his concern about the possible erosion effects. The Commission will follow this closely. Discussion was held about balancing the needs for use and conservation on this property and others.

Low Impact Development – Chair Taylor is reviewing some information about LID in regulations from a group in Lake George.

Invasive Plants – No new information.

Member Time – L. Peters spoke about a cave walk with the former State archaeologist. She suggested some safety discussions should take place with the Selectmen.

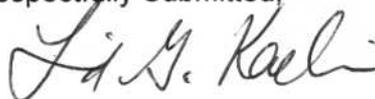
Correspondence – The CT Land Council Conference will be March 21 in Middletown; if any members are interested they can see Chair Taylor. Audubon's bird atlas was circulated. Habitat newsletter was distributed.

Privilege of the Floor – K. Doyle said she is happy the Town voted to purchase the Sherwood property. She said she sees both sides of the discussion about active and passive uses, and would like to see a full discussion about all the Town properties and where it makes sense to have each kind of use, as well as identifying what types of properties/uses we do not currently have but would like to have. She was not sure how this would be coordinated, perhaps through the POCD. D. Taylor said he is willing to meet with Park and Rec. to discuss.

L. Arno moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Sherman. Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Kaelin, Clerk

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IN WOODBURY, CT

This 22nd day of Dec 2017
at 11:20 o'clock A M
Suzanna Cooper
TOWN CLERK