



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:04 p.m.*)
D. West
W. Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

C. Aberg

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the November 7, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for comments. There were none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, West, Sherman, Peters, Ryan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

There was no correspondence to cover.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

Chairman Taylor noted that he needed to add an item to the agenda under Current Business.

MOTION:

To add item “H” Discussion of the Annual Land Use Meeting under Current Business.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, West, Sherman, Peters, Ryan

Nays: None

Abstain: None

a) Pollinator Pathway

D. West reported that she is taking a hiatus on the initiative until January. The Garden Club is looking to take over the care of the garden at the firehouse and make it into a pollinator garden. Then conceivably there would be the G.W. Green, the Library, the North Green, and the firehouse as the initial pieces of the pollinator pathway. She also spoke with a woman who works on the Cheshire pollinator pathway who has been able to obtain grants. She sent D. West the organization’s information for pursuing grant money. J. Sherman inquired about the garden at the Labonne’s entrance. He will speak to Labonne’s to see if they are interested in the initiative.

Chairman Taylor noted that member W. Ryan will be making his presentation on solar farms to the Board of Selectmen at the December 12, 2024, meeting. W. Ryan stated that he found information on how solar farms can add money to municipalities that he will include.

b) CACIWC Review

A few members attended and commented that they enjoyed it.

c) Minortown Project

J. Sherman stated that there is nothing to report. Chairman Taylor noted that he will send a letter to the Parks and Rec Department to include a fence and gate for the area in the new budget.

d) 2025 Budget Recommendations

Chairman Taylor asked the members what projects are coming that may need funding. J. Sherman noted that he will be meeting with Carol Cheah to check on the HWA status. Currently there is funding, but it needs to be determined if more will be needed.

L. Peters wondered about funds for Earth Day. She obtained a booklet about invasives at CACIWC and would like to find out pricing to hand some out at Earth Day. D. West also mentioned pizzas and trash bags for town cleanup days.

Chairman Taylor directed members to email him if they think of something else. He mentioned to consider if there is anything intended to apply for a grant that may need matching funds. D. West will investigate the list of organizations just given her. Chairman Taylor is recommending a budget line for a pool of matching grant money.

e) Three Rivers Park Restoration

Chairman Taylor stated that currently there is a difficulty getting permits through the contractor. There is some vegetation growing on its own.

f) Newsletter

There is nothing to report while C. Aberg is working on the Charter Revisions.

g) Open Space Issues

D. West took pictures of the holes she mentioned last month at Three Rivers Park. She will put together an email with the pictures to Jamie Gore at the Park & Rec Department. Chairman Taylor asked her to also send it to Mike Lodice.

Chairman Taylor asked that if any members are out walking to take note of hemlocks for the status of HWA. D. West mentioned the erosion at the Trolley Bed. This would not be a simple fix, but rather a project. She will look into CT Forest and Trails to see if there are any grants available.

h) Annual Land Use Joint Meeting

Chairman Taylor stated that he is looking for ideas of what the commissions would like to accomplish at the meeting. The members wondered if the Parks and Rec Department should be part of it. L. Peters noted she would like to see some focus on the POCD requirements. The consensus was also that an annual meeting might not be enough. A strategy could be having several meetings that coordinate with the budget process. A project could be chosen to accomplish and then funding can be budgeted. This could create a rhythm for getting projects done. Chairman Taylor noted how Commission Chairs used to meet informally regularly and that would help keep communication flowing. Discussion continued that projects need a coordinator. It was suggested that the BoS could act as the project manager for all departments. There was also the suggestion of having outside speakers come to meetings. Chairman Taylor recommended for the members to think on this and send any other suggestions to him.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters spoke of the Charter Revision Commission. She noted that they are considering making some advisory commissions into governing commissions. In particular, the Park and Rec Commission, the Commission for Seniors, and the Library Board of Trustees. She noted that it is not clear why they are leaning this way. There was much discussion regarding advisory boards versus governing boards. L. Peters will look at the powers of duties of advisory boards from the State. D. West felt that advisory boards may be discouraging for getting people involved thinking that they won't make a difference. Chairman Taylor noted that there is a process where an advisory board can have regulatory impact.

J. Sherman went to a presentation in Ridgefield on natural resource inventory. The town has a 120 page document that compiles conservation areas, forests, and wetlands to inform the Land Use planning and guide development to protect sensitive areas. The town of Ridgefield actually has a Conservation Enforcement Department. This led to more discussion about the BoS setting the priority of what to work together on. The Three Rivers Ad-hoc Committee is a good example of multiple departments coming together. D. West suggested using that committee as a model. Chairman Taylor will forward these suggestions to the First Selectman. W. Ryan suggested finding towns and people who have successfully

implemented these ideas and have them present to municipal departments. This could get better results than commissions promoting their own ideas.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

D. West brought up the nominating committee for the upcoming commission election. Thayer noted that she needed to make a slate for the current year.

MOTION:

To keep our current Chair and Vice Chair as is for the slate for the coming year.

Made by T. Clark, Seconded by D. West

Vote: 5-0-1 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: West, Sherman, Peters, Ryan, Clark

Nays: None

Abstain: Taylor

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:34 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 10th day of Dec 2024
at 2:47 o'clock PM

Anna M. Mancini
Toryn Clark