TOWN OF WOODBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798
(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyct.org

Woodbury
First land deed from the Indians
April 12th 1659

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 2018
8:00 AM, SHOVE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
281 MAIN STREET SOUTH

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
D. Taylor
L. Peters
L. Arno
J. Sherman
D. Schultz

MEMBERS ABSENT:
A. Musso

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

Minutes:
L. Peters moved to approve the October meeting minutes. J. Sherman seconded, but noted there is a mistake on page 2, paragraph c in the POCD discussion,. It states, "Sherman Property." It should be amended to say "Sherwood Property." October meeting minutes were unanimously approved **AS AMMENDED.**

Correspondence:
Chairman Taylor stated the CACIWC conference was a good one. He and L. Peters attended and met with other towns, forming some good relationships. Chairman Taylor noted there had been a solicitation from the CT Audubon Society along with receiving a CT State of the Birds magazine from them. Chairman Taylor offered to let the commission borrow the magazine. Also noted- was a correspondence from Carol Haskins about Woodbury Earth Day which will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Chairman Taylor said that the commission needs to keep that date in mind and do some planning ahead. Member Peters wants the commission to do something to attract adults to Earth Day.

New Business:

a. **2019 Meeting Schedule:** Members were presented with the regular meeting schedule for the upcoming 2019 year. L. Peters moved to approve the new schedule. L. Arno seconded. The 2019 meeting schedule was unanimously approved.
b. **Nominating Committee:** Chairman Taylor noted there should be a nominating committee to elect officers of the commission in January. D.

Taylor said he would be willing to continue as the Chairman, unless someone else wanted to take on that responsibility. J. Sherman also said he would be willing to continue as the Vice Chairman. The official steps to be nominated will be taken in January.

c. **POCD Discussion:** As per the October meeting, Chairman Taylor sent out a list to expand on the POCD. Chairman Taylor was at the planning committee this past week, and he noted the POCD is their main focus. Planning needs help and input from other commissions. It was noted that the town's Waterways section is lacking in the document, as well as the buffers being taken for granted. D. Taylor would like the document to go into more depth as to why these are important. LID is also mentioned in the POCD, but it was noted that people don't really understand what LID is about and this needs to go into more detail. The Northwest Conservation is writing LID manuals for each town. The Woodbury Town LID booklet is being worked on and is almost finished. D. Schultz broached the subject of replacing asphalt with another material that would allow ground water to flow through the road. L. Peters mentioned the permeable parking lot at "New Morning" and D. Schultz thought this was a good thing to emphasize and suggested educating the public about these options at Earth Day. D. Taylor wasn't sure that *Allowable Crops* belonged on the POCD, rather a conversation should be had amongst themselves and then taken to the selectmen. D. Schultz asked if we could involve farmers in this conversation. The commission thought this was a good idea. L. A conversation was had about the value of open space and how it is used. D. Taylor wants to describe the particular value of each parcel of Open Space as he has heard many people say the Open Space isn't used. D. Taylor said "we don't pay enough attention to the POCD." The POCD states the Conservation Commission will receive 0.5% of the budget and the commission currently receives nothing. There needs to be a discussion on how to get some money for the open space fund. L. Arno suggested using a specific number instead of a percentage and asked how we actually get this into a budget. D. Schultz mentioned that the public has to see there is value in order to back the budget. L. Arno suggested creating a chart on the value of Open Space for Earth Day and offered to take on that responsibility to educate the public. J. Sherman began a conversation about a 'fee in lieu of open space,' stating that there are some isolated areas that are landlocked and don't have much value. D. Taylor wants the commission to go out and evaluate the open space value and assist with a fee in lieu of that space. The fee from this would go into the open space fund. The POCD mentions the Pomperaug River Greenway Plan, but the commission noted there is no actual greenway. D. Taylor said this needs to be called something else in the POCD. The preservation zones map in the POCD and is from ten years ago. D. Taylor said if the information is just going to be repeated, then it doesn't do anything. D. Schultz said we could work together with other organizations to develop trails so the public will see the value in these spaces. The POCD calls to protect Nonnewaug Falls but there is currently no campaign to do this. J. Schultz mentioned there is a private owner who doesn't seem interested in keeping

people off the land. J. Sherman said there could be silt going into the water which would be a concern to the water company down the river. D. Schultz mentioned getting an easement on the property. J. Sherman said he has photographs from last year and he will go back up to get new pictures to document the amount of erosion to help with this process. L. Peters said they should be able to get an easement for part of Nonnewaug Falls based on the will of the donor. D. Schultz suggested creating a relationship with the owner to try and convince him of the value of Nonnewaug Falls. J. Sherman mentioned this has been attempted to no avail, and L. Arno suggested a member of the commission may make more headway. D. Schultz thinks educating the public about this issue would be a good step forward. L. Arno suggested a sign on Earth Day posing the question to the public, "Should we protect Nonnewaug Falls?" L. Arno left the meeting at 9:19am. D. Taylor said the list would not be able to be discussed in full as there are too many points to get through.

d. **Trolley Bed Caves Project:** J. Sherman handed out some documents on the Trolley Bed Caves Project. In 2017, J. Sherman found a cave on the Trolley Bed trail. J. Sherman and a CT State archaeologist along with Mike Sandone- who is doing a documentary on early New England Mining- have been able to identify this as a possible mining cave from 1772 as the first attempt to find copper. They would like to form a cave dig as this could have significant historical value. A CT based caving club would handle the dig. Before anything can be finalized, J. Sherman will take these documents to Mary from Inland/Wetlands to get feedback from her.
e. **Sustainable CT:** D. Taylor mentioned Mary Ellen Edwards is putting a group together to handle the requirements for Sustainable CT. D. Taylor wanted to make the commission aware that this would be something coming up in the near future.

Change in Agenda:

D. Taylor asked to change the order of the agenda as D. Schultz needed to leave by 10am and a quorum was required for some issues.

Old Business:

a. **Orenaug Park:** At the October meeting, Jen Miller from Parks and Rec presented an idea for a frisbee/ disc golf course at Orenaug Park. D. Taylor looked at the deed for this land and has discovered there is a deed restriction that states if the property is used for anything other than the donor bequeathed it for, the property will be taken back by an heir. D. Taylor suggested the conservation commission provide a letter of objection to Parks and Rec as well as the first selectman to inform them of this restriction. J. Sherman would like the commission to provide an alternative location. L. Peters said the commission doesn't object to frisbee golf in and of itself it just can't be in the spot that Parks and Rec has chosen. D. Taylor stated that placing the frisbee golf course at this particular location would eliminate the path between the park and the senior center and will require more maintenance than stated in

the original presentation. D. Taylor called for a motion to provide the letter to the selectman. L. Peters made a motion and J. Sherman seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mary Luf, from the Southbury Conservation Committee presented an idea for a corridor between Southbury and Woodbury. As D. Schultz left at 9:56am, there was no longer a quorum established. The remaining committee members took a look at some maps Mary provided trying to find a possible corridor. They found some possibilities and asked Mary to come back in January to continue the corridor conversation with a better map.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2019.

Filed, Subject to Approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Caitlin Gerwien, Conservation Commission Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 13th day of Dec 2018
at 10:10 o'clock A M
Town Clerk