



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark
D. West
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West

Vote: 7-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Clark, West, Hickey, Aberg, Sherman

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to consider at this time.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Shade Tree Committee Gathering

Chairman Taylor announced that there will be a joint Special Meeting with the Shade Tree and Sidewalk Committee on January 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the Shove building. Chairman Taylor reviewed some items on the agenda draft. This meeting will enable both committees to get in sync with each other on objectives. There was discussion on how many members will attend and if a clerk will be needed for the meeting.

A gentleman arrived at the meeting stating that he would like to get involved in conservation efforts. He was welcomed and was asked to observe the meeting process. He will be able to speak during Privilege of the Floor.

b) Municipal Composting

L. Peter informed the Commission that the program is supposed to start in February. B. Hickey had attended the recent Board of Selectmen meeting and had more information. The program will be limited to those who have dump stickers which is approximately 2500 residents. The grant will provide green bags for compost and pink bags for trash for free. The two separate bags will help to determine the difference in the weight of trash without compostable materials for the participants. The compost is sent to a facility which captures the methane and turns it into reusable fuel. The program will accept many items not normally composted at home.

Discussion ensued regarding fees and incentives that could be offered to participants once the grant is complete. The Commission would also like to help with the education involved in the project. It was noted that the Commission will get information on the program out to people involved in the spring cleanup in April.

c) Minortown Road Property

J. Sherman updated the Commission on the project. He has currently withdrawn the application with the IWA. The current priority is obtaining proposals for the removal of the knotweed. He and D. Taylor are meeting with three companies for proposals; Evergreen Lawn & Landscape, TM Agriculture (Todd Mervosh) , and Invasive Plant Solutions (Christian Allyn). Once a contractor has been chosen, funding will be obtained from the BOS office and then he can proceed with the IWA. Design and implementation of the property will not happen until this phase is complete. J. Sherman stated this phase can take a while with treatment of the knotweed in the spring and removal in the fall.

d) POCD Items

e) Zoning Regulations Related to Conservation

f) Route 6 Study

These three items were discussed together.

Chairman Taylor noted that a response was submitted to the Planning Commission as requested by November 18, 2022, in regards to implementation of strategies and actions in the POCD. The Commission was primarily responsible for five areas. Chairman Taylor read his response letter to the Commission. His response for each item is as follows:

- **Item 1.1**—This task was completed in November 2020. A list of maintenance improvement items was sent to the respective departments. He will not be submitting new items until the initial ones are completed.
- **Item 1.2**—As projects are planned for 2023 the Commission will identify where the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) could be of assistance. This would be handled through the Land Use office since the Town Planner acts as a liaison with NVCOG.
- **Item 3.4**—The Commission is starting to work on this aspect. They are trying to identify any Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) presentations to various Boards that could assist with this.

(L. Peters gave an update noted later in the minutes)

- **Item 4.1**—This item has been discussed, but currently the Commission lacks the resources for the design work. The Commission will try to move this forward.
- **Item 5.1**—The Commission maintains an open space database. They intend to identify properties that would enhance the values of existing properties, whether through ownership or easement. This would entail creating a plan for rebuilding open space funds.

L. Peters had spoken to Carol Haskins, PRWC Executive Director, to identify the priority of projects for the town that the Commission can promote. Ms. Haskins provided the following suggestions of Low Impact Developments (LID) projects on municipally owned and Region 14 properties, to improve and protect the water quality within the Town and the Parks and Recreation facilities.

- Implement a rain garden outside the Library/Boyd buildings. Ms. Haskins noted that there is funding in the Town budget for this project. Hailey McKeever, PRWC Outreach Coordinator, will be meeting with members of the Library and the Stormwater Management Committee.
- There is an opportunity at Three Rivers to move the parking lot further from the river. Funding for this project is not in the current Town budget. The flood plain goes all the way to Route 317 and the Army Corp may need to be involved.
- The riparian buffer at Hollow Park should be increased in width to at least 25 feet, add plantings, and implement a 'no mow' zone.
- Encourage 'no mow' zones along the rivers. This would save fuel, employee time, and is less polluting in addition to protecting the rivers.
- Mitchell School parking lot will need resurfacing soon. Region 14 should be encouraged and / or requested to resurface with pervious paving since the runoff from Mitchell parking lot goes into the Kettle. The storm drains should be removed and replaced with swales.
- Implement a rain garden near the baseball field at Mitchell School.

Discussion ensued regarding these various ideas and the POCD items. C. Aberg felt that more members of the public need to be educated as to the drawbacks of paving. This led to ideas of how to reach the public, whether by newspaper, social media etc. The members should think on this matter and have ideas ready for the next meeting. T. Clark said that she can handle designing the brochure. The members should also look through the Zoning Regulations to see where changes could be made, including where LID can be implemented.

Chairman Taylor noted that Flanders Nature Center is working on establishing animal pathways. He wonders if this could be a plan for open space properties. The Commission can map out a way to connect and protect the properties without having to purchase more. He will bring in materials to show the members. There is a substantial Route 6 corridor study being conducted through a grant. The Commission would like to look at that and see if any animal crossings could be included. The Commission also mentioned they would like to be involved where fees in lieu of open space fees are involved. They need to talk to the BOS about if those fees could go towards funding other open space needs.

g) Open Space Issues

There were no issues to discuss at this time.

h) Newsletter Revival

C. Aberg asked for some suggestions as to what the newsletter should contain. She is looking to put something together for the beginning of the year. Some ideas were an announcement about the composting program, the spring road cleanup, the Shade Tree Committee collaboration, and the HWA. She will send out a draft to the members this month.

i) Nominating Committee

T. Clark and L. Peters volunteered to be the nominating committee. All nominations should go through them.

5. MEMBER TIME

T. Clark inquired if the Commission will be doing the library case again this year in April. Chairman Taylor said that it was reserved for the Commission. This will be put on the next agenda to begin the preliminary planning for this.

B. Hickey stated that the Garden Club is trying to get status as a “pollinator pathway” town and would appreciate the Conservation Commission’s help. Woodbury is one of the few towns in Connecticut that is not participating. He is researching what is entailed. He directed the members to www.pollinatorpathways.org for more information.

L. Peters reported that some towns were participating in textile recycling. Oakville has this at its transfer station. This would include not only clothing, but items such as comforters and drapes. She will do more research on the topic. D. West noted that she recently read something about Goodwill taking items they can’t sell and turning them into insulation.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The gentleman, Zachary, a tenant of 259 Main Street S., addressed the Commission. He stated how he has lived in the town for most of his life. He would like to give back and serve the community. He has recently developed a passion for ecology and would like to see how he can get involved. Chairman Taylor informed him that currently there are no positions available on the Commission, but that volunteers are always welcome. Zach stated that he will also see if he can help at Parks and Recreation. He could

definitely assist in helping spread awareness of conservation items. He will leave his contact information with the Land Use office.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters
Consensus of the Commission in favor 7-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

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

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 8th day of Dec 2022
at 3:20 o'clock P M
Maria Mancini
Treasurer