



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798-0369
(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyct.org

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 8:00 A.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz
L. Peters
J. Sherman
L. Pittari
A. Musso

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Also Present: Town Planner Maryellen Edwards

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 8:05 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the January 28, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. J. Sherman and L. Peters noted corrections that needed to be made.

MOTION:

D. Schultz moved and J. Sherman seconded to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- Remove L. Arno from the members absent section. L. Arno is no longer a member.
- Section 4.c- paragraph 1, sentence 2—“Flanders Director Vince LaFontan will be holding a presentation for members of the Woodbury Town Government by Carol Cheah....”

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION:

D. Schultz moved and J. Sherman seconded to add discussion of a Committee for Sustainable Connecticut to the agenda under Current Business.

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted an email to all members from Selectman Perkinson instructing all to identify themselves when speaking at a commission meeting in order for people who are listening online, attending or listening to the recording may know who is speaking.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a. Discussion on changing meeting time / Day

Chairman Taylor opened the discussion regarding the new 2021 meeting schedule. The consensus was to cancel all previously scheduled meetings for the year and adopt the new schedule for meetings to be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. A special meeting will be held on March 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION:

L. Peters moved and D. Schultz seconded to adopt the new meeting schedule for the Conservation Commission with meetings to be held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will be virtual until the Commission agrees it is safe to move to the Shove building. *(2021 regular meeting dates are: April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7.)*

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

b. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Update

J. Sherman opened the discussion regarding the Woolly Adelgid project. J. Sherman is awaiting a schedule per Carol Cheah, the entomologist who is running the project. So far there is one volunteer. L. Pittari and L. Peters would like to volunteer also.

c. Town Clean-up Day

J. Sherman gave an update on the Town Clean-up Day. He will run the day with the same procedures as the fall clean up. There will not be a big meeting at Hollow Park. There will be online registering in order to keep everyone socially distanced. He will be posting notices around town, in the papers and will send out a flyer to the email list within the next week or so.

d. Earth Day Plans

Chairman Taylor noted that there will not be the traditional Earth Day event at the Hollow. However there will be events around town in person and virtually throughout the month. He stated that Hayleigh McKeever of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition was inquiring regarding a vendor named Peanut Planet, which is a group that collects packing material for recycling and reusing purposes. The group was interested in setting up a collection tent. Discussion ensued amongst the members regarding setting up a stand at clean-up day, as long as the organization provided someone to be there to monitor what was being dropped off.

The Commission felt that this could be a good introduction of this organization to the Town. People will have to be going to the Hollow on clean-up day to bring any garbage that has been collected. This will be an opportunity to educate and encourage another form of recycling. The specifics of what is accepted should be put on the clean-up day flyer and in the newspaper.

L.Pittari noted that the organization could also come to the New Morning store to pick up additional packaging. A. Musso felt that it is a good chance for Conservation to have a presence.

e. Municipal Composting

L. Peters mentioned how she has seen other communities such as Greenwich providing start up household composting kits to help get people involved at a reduced price. The State of New York is passing a law requiring large scale producers of compostable materials to compost. The Commission needs to start with educating the public regarding simple household composting at a conservation talk.

Discussion ensued regarding how grocery stores deal with compostable material. L. Pittari noted that local farms will pick up some waste; however the goal should be to reduce and eliminate waste. Programs should also highlight ways for people to conserve without inconveniencing them. L. Peters noted that research shows that those who compost actually reduce their buying. Chairman Taylor stated how Scandinavian countries steeply discount expiring items to help move them rather than throwing out. A. Musso noted that food rescue organizations also aid in getting expiring foods to food banks that partner with restaurants or grocery stores.

f. Parking lot expansion at 506 Main St South

Chairman Taylor noted for the Commission to keep an eye on the developments of the application for an additional 40 to 50 parking spots at the 1754 House on Main Street. The proposed work is out of the 100 foot review area; however it is very close to the River. It does not appear to be going before the Inlands Wetlands Agency. It is currently before the Zoning Commission.

g. POCD Implementation Summary 4.1: Brochure describing Open Space Values

Chairman Taylor presented a spreadsheet of nine town owned open space properties and the values that each possessed. This could be a starting point for identifying values. The Commission needs to decide whether this should be a pamphlet or booklet, and it should be something easy to read with graphics to capture people's attention. D. Schultz wondered if the brochure could be linked with the website and the newsletter to reduce printing. A. Musso spoke of using the Mailchimp tool that allows a document to be contained within the body of an email. She is working on going in the direction of reducing paper. For design purposes it needs to be established if it will be a tri-fold or one sheet type of pamphlet. Discussion of design and structure ensued with the end result being that A. Musso will try to use the template that she uses for the newsletter to come up with two rough drafts for options.

Chairman Taylor asked for the members to go over the spread sheet he provided with the nine conservation values and determine if those are sufficient. There will then be a need for source material on each value, along with an outline of what things the Commission wants to say. These items will need to be structured in a way for people to relate to the value and understand why they should care about it.

h. POCD 5.1 Develop a plan & map identifying open space lands that are priorities for protection / acquisition.

Chairman Taylor is not ready to proceed with this plan at the moment. It will be left on the agenda for a future plan. Ms. Edwards stated that the town GIS is working on providing an open space layer along with an easement layer to the maps. Chairman Taylor asked if walking trails

could also be included on the maps based on the North West Council of Governments. Ms. Edwards will look into that. Discussion commenced on how much detail will be provided on the GIS regarding easements and how it can be accessed.

i. Sustainable Connecticut Committee

Ms. Edwards noted how the Town had been recognized as a certified bronze town in 2019. She shared the table provided by the Sustainable Connecticut program and the actionable items. Each item has a credit score. One action in each category must be performed. The items performed in 2019 are eligible for a three year rolling credit based on the previous certification. Someone would need to take the lead on any new actions. She would like to have someone to take the reins of this project to move it forward for certification for 2021. Submission deadlines for certification are April and August.

Chairman Taylor noted that some items are out of the Conservation Commission purview. Ms. Edwards is not going to all of the Commissions. She thinks most towns have formed a group for this purpose, whether it is a committee, individuals or clubs. Ms. Edwards is encouraging the Commission to look into this. She will send links out and try to go through the table and label what was already submitted in 2019 and what could possibly be accomplished for this year.

j. Conservation Talks

k. Three Rivers Riparian Restoration

There was nothing regarding this topic at this time.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters spoke of the Conservation Talks. She spoke to Ed Belinsky at Nonnewaug High School to see if he is interested in doing a conservation talk about composting. He did not feel he was the right person for a presentation, but he will find a contact to recommend.

6. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

There will be a special Conservation Commission meeting on March 16, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

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 1st day of March 2021
at 1:05 o'clock P M
Guida J. Park
Town Clerk