



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798
203.263.3467 ▪ www.woodburyct.org

**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 6, 2024
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

B. Hickey

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This was handled at the January Conservation Commission meeting and should not have been on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Conservation Commission for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman

Vote: 6-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

4. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor noted the CLCC Conference will be held on March 23, 2024. He does not have registration information yet.

Chairman Taylor also noted the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club is hosting a workshop on “Practical Planting of Native Seeds” Tuesday, February 13th. There was discussion regarding the topic since their website says the workshop will be about invasive plants. He will confirm the topic, time, and place.

Town Planner Agresta had provided a questionnaire regarding the Commission’s activities for the year in order to fill out an MS4 form. The Commission will go over that for few minutes after the meeting.

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Pollinator Pathway Presentation at Woodbury Library

The presentations will be on February 15th at the library and February 29th at the Senior Center. The first presentation will be primarily held by Lisa Turoczi of Earth Tones. The second presentation will have quite a few people with expertise for the panel discussion. Vince LaFontan from Flanders will moderate the panel discussion. He asked for the Commission for questions that could be asked to guide the discussion. Any members should get their discussion questions to Chairman Taylor by 5:00 p.m. Friday.

The Commission spoke of the difference between pollinator gardens and meadows. Most people would like gardens that require as little maintenance as possible. They usually take about three to four years to get established. The Commission noticed that the presentation is not on the community calendar and will try to remedy that.

b) Trash Reduction Pilot Program

L. Peters briefed the Commission on the recommendations that the ad-hoc Committee made to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee proposed that mandatory unit based pricing should be implemented. The townspeople would purchase garbage bags and that would cover the cost of hauling and tipping. There will be three sizes of bags for trash (8, 15 and 33 gallon). There will be two sizes of bags for food waste (4 and 8 gallon). The bags will be available at New Morning, Labonne’s, Woodbury Saw & Mower, and possibly also Agway and Ace Hardware. Anyone who qualifies for the food bank can get free bags.

The BoS accepted the recommendations. The \$25 transfer station charge will be dropped. The Committee suggested a transfer station tag that is not a sticker so that people can use it on different vehicles. The Town has been approved for a grant from DEEP to extend the plan until the next budget year. Part of the grant funds need to be used to educate the public and part of the funds for enforcement once the program is in place. Someone will be hired for the position of enforcement. Waste Zero, COG and DEEP will help with the education aspect. Some of that education will take place at Earth Day. The ad-hoc committee will continue to make sure the program goes well and to also look to possibilities for the future. Chairman Coates is composing a new mission statement for the committee.

c) Three Rivers Park

J. Sherman noted that Trout Scapes River Restoration and Rocky Ridge are putting a plan together to apply to the river system to present to the IWA. This would also address the banks between the three bridges at Jack's Bridge, Judson, and Route 47. Unfortunately, the grant writing is holding up the process.

d) Stomski Way, Minortown Road

J. Sherman reported that there was nothing new since the last meeting. He recommended to the members that now is a very nice time to take a walk to the river. It is a good example of a riparian buffer. This led to discussion about the farm leased cornfields. The focus needs to be on repairing the buffer first and then focus can turn to the lease details. Chairman Taylor had spoken to Jamie Gore at the Parks and Rec Department about the gate for the property. She stated that they have a design for the fence that is ADA accessible. This would also be wide enough for horses. It will need to be determined if horses will be allowed.

e) HWA

J. Sherman reported that Minortown Road, Three Rivers and Nonnewaug Falls do not show signs of infestation. Carol Cheah noted there are some small local patches. The discussion was if the Commission should purchase more beetles this year. They will check a few more places and then decide. Discussion was that if they did not use the funds allocated for this year, it will be harder to obtain funds when there is an infestation another year. The funds are delineated for this use and cannot be used for something else.

f) Hollow Park Master Plan

There has been no update on this.

g) Open Space Brochure

This project is on hold for the time being.

h) Newsletter

T. Clark and C. Aberg passed out the finished product. They will distribute these throughout town. This led to discussion about wanting to get invites out for the town clean-up. L. Peters noted that someone suggested pizza instead of chili and to work main roads where people will be seen. The Commission noted how that can be dangerous at times. There were ideas of a competition and a prize for who collects the most. J. Sherman will contact the school to see about volunteers. Chairman Taylor will check on the budget to see if any funds can be used for this.

i) Earth Day

Earth Day will be April 20 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hollow Park. Discussion commenced on how to get a booth and what is to be the focus. Pam Elkow, a volunteer for Earth Day for the Parks and Rec Department, was present. She noted that Blue Earth will be there and the focus will be composting. The Commission brainstormed on ideas for the booth. The consensus was to focus on the trash program. They will work on this more at the next meeting.

j) Open Space Issues

There were no issues to report.

6. MEMBER TIME

J. Sherman stated that DEEP had sent someone out in response to Dennis Roberts complaint of material being dumped along Route 6. The DEEP emergency response representative stated that they did not think it was anything of concern. Whatever Mr. Roberts saw had faded now. J. Sherman and Carol Haskins will keep an eye on the area for further spills.

L. Peters stated that she signed up for the CT Compost Conference on March 14th at the Connecticut College in New London. The conference runs 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m. It is a free program that will have three topics: 1) for schools, 2) for farms and mid-scale commercial and 3) for municipal, commercial, and large scale. The sign-up link is ctcompostalliance.org for anyone else that is interested.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the public.

8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2024.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by C. Aberg
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
14th Feb 24
8:35
Maria M. Marciniak