



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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Woodbury, CT 06798
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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:06 p.m.*)
D. West
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the January 3, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. D. West wanted to abstain due to not being present. Chairman Taylor noted that the date for the next meeting was incorrect.

- Page 5, section 7—should read “the next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023.”

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as amended.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman

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

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, Hickey, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: West

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to consider.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Town Clean-up Day

A reminder to the Commission that Town clean-up day is April 1, 2023. There will be chili and possibly hot dogs available.

b) Earth Day Planning

L. Peters handed out the equipment list from last year for review. The Commission discussed what they would like to include. All agreed that planting the pumpkin seeds was a success. Chairman Taylor noted that it got a little crowded at times in the tent. He suggested putting the planting table out in front of the tent. T. Clark felt that the free composter raffle was a good draw for people also. The Open Space map is always good to have. The members thought it would be a good idea to incorporate the municipal composting program information into the display. A visual display of what can and can't go into composting and recycling was discussed. L. Peters encouraged the use of the Recycle CT app and the COG website that has a story map of garbage. D. West mentioned highlighting anaerobic digesters. A chart showing the impact of communities that compost versus those who didn't might be helpful. The Commission will also try to promote "No Mow May" as an initiative and have seed packets to aid pollinator pathways.

c) Open Space Brochure

D. West asked for clarification on what properties are shown on the OS map and what their categories are. She thought educating the public on that might be useful for budgeting and possible future acquisitions. This led to a discussion of the different properties; some of which are private. Chairman Taylor felt that the brochure should be more specific to Town owned properties that are publicly available. He referenced the Southbury brochure which has separate categories such as what the Park & Rec Department handle; and other properties that the Conservation Commission handles where you can hike. He does not believe that trust properties are in the brochure.

L. Peters questioned how the brochure should be developed differently from the "Walk Woodbury" brochure. Discussion was that there are several brochures or fliers that are already put out in town. There is Walk Woodbury, a bike trail map, and the garden club public garden map. B. Hickey stated how Ridgefield had taken all of that type of information and compiled into one 30 page booklet. Unfortunately, that is beyond the scope of this Commission. T. Clark will create a draft taking some information from the different websites and reformat it to fit into the Open Space brochure. Flanders properties came up in the discussion. Permission would be needed in order to put any Flanders properties into the brochure. Chairman Taylor stated that the brochure does not need to be complete for Earth Day. Having it done well is more important.

d) Newsletter

C. Aberg passed out a draft of the newsletter. She will email this out to the members so that they can add to or edit the text. T. Clark will help with the formatting. The goal is to have this newsletter out before Earth Day and then subsequent newsletters quarterly. Chairman Taylor

noted that the State Storm Water Management Program requires the Town Planner to report about activities that have been done. The Commission will try to keep track of what they have done and how many people they have reached to get that information to the Town Planner.

e) Library Display

The library display will be basically highlighting the same topics and interests as the Earth Day plan.

f) HWA Update

J. Sherman gave an update on the project. A deep freeze like we had in January can help to kill off 80%-90% of the adelgids. He and Carol Cheah recently looked over the areas that had been treated. Some areas need a booster dose, but Nonnewaug Falls looked good and had some healthy hemlocks. Flanders property had a similar experience. They are now in the process of testing some HWA samples to make sure there is definite mortality, thereby not requiring a booster. Since a large booster dose is not needed, then the budget allocated for that can be used towards the brochure, knotweed removal or Earth Day projects.

g) Stomski Way / Minortown Road

J. Sherman presented the quote from Christian Allen for removing the knotweed. He liked Mr. Allen's quote the best of all three. Chairman Taylor will present this to the First Selectman. The Inland Wetlands Agency will be notified of the project and timeframe.

h) Pollinator Pathway

B. Hickey shared some information he learned regarding pollinator pathways. One strategy is to only mow meadows completely once a year. Pathways could be cut for people to walk. This could be financially advantageous to the Town and cut down on maintenance needed. There are also grants available for this initiative. Terry Clark from the Garden Club will come to the next meeting to talk about the topic. B. Hickey stated that once a committee is formed with several members, the process is very straightforward and each respective organization can work at their own pace. The members would like to include Flanders as part of this. They will invite some from other groups as well.

i) POCD Items

Chairman Taylor stated that one item in the POCD is to gather people together from different Commissions and Departments to develop a town wide Open Space strategy plan. Mary Connolly of the Planning Commission is trying to organize this. D. West noted that could be a better forum for putting more educational information about open space rather than in the Open Space brochure.

j) Open Space Issues

Chairman Taylor asked the members to get out and walk the trails and properties to note any issues on Open Space properties. He will compile a new list to send to the Park & Rec and the Public Works Departments. Discussion ensued as to whether the Town should have property monitors. Chairman Taylor stated that there are a lot of layers involved with that. A copy of the monitor form from Flanders will be the starting point for any related discussion.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters went on an eagle watch at Steep Rock. Unfortunately there were no eagles. Discussion commenced among the members regarding different locations to observe eagles.

Chairman Taylor noted that the National Bird Count is coming up this month. The National Audubon Society has information on how to participate.

J. Sherman stated that a friend had been on the Trolley Bed trail and said that it was in great shape. The trees have been cleared off the trails. There is also a new mountain bike path.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Clerk Robyn Wright noted that Los Angeles now has a mandatory composting program.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:42 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

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 9th day of Feb 2023
at 11:15 o'clock AM
Maria M Mancini
Town Clerk