



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, March 1, 2022 7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

L. Peters
J. Sherman, Vice Chairman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:03 p.m.*)
D. West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz
A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chairman Sherman began the meeting at 7:03 p.m. It was determined that a quorum was not established. Member Clark arrived and a quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairman Sherman presented the minutes of the February 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

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

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West
Vote: 4-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed
Ayes: Sherman, Peters, West, Clark
Nays: None
Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Vice Chairman Sherman began discussion about an email from members of the Monroe and Newtown Conservation Commissions to Chairman Taylor. These members would like to meet to discuss developing zoning regulations for using native plants on Town properties. Monroe and Newtown are the first towns to initiate a program like this and have sent out notices to Conservation Commission Chairs in hopes of meeting and advocating for these practices.

J. Sherman spoke with Town planner Agresta about this matter. Currently Woodbury does not have any regulations set regarding these practices. The advantages of using native plants are to support bird, bee and insect populations and reduce maintenance and use of chemicals. The Commission spoke of engaging the Garden Club, Flanders and perhaps Earth Tones who specialize in native plants. It was noted that since the new Zoning Regulations have not been approved yet, it would be advantageous to act quickly now rather than having to do an amendment to regulations later. J. Sherman or D. Taylor will get in touch with these towns to set up a meeting.

Vice Chairman Sherman noted that the Town has sent out to all Department Heads and Chairs the ARPA funds survey. They are being asked to spread the word regarding the survey, which is also available on the website. The Commission spent time looking over and discussing the survey. The deadline for the survey is March 31, 2022.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Town Clean-up Day

Town Clean-up Day is scheduled for April 2, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Vice Chairman Sherman inquired of the group about going back to meeting at Hollow Park. The Commission agreed that this could be done. Vests, gloves and garbage bags will be handed out along with pre-packaged snacks and water. The Commission is excited to do this event in person again which helps promote community spirit. There was discussion on coordinating efforts for Clean-up Day, the library display and Earth Day.

b) Earth Day Plans

The members discussed the plans for Earth Day. Chairman Taylor had sent a list of supplies needed to L. Peters. The Commission discussed the list and decided who will bring what. The main features will be the large map, composting, the mining display and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project. It was decided not to have too much so that it will not be hard to focus on a topic. There will also be a raffle with a home composting gift.

c) Library Display Plans

The Commission has access to the display case on March 31st. They coordinated their effort on who will do set up and what time they will meet for this.

d) HWA Project

T. Clarke and J. Sherman both checked on the Orenaug Park infestation. J. Sherman has placed an order for predator beetles with Tree Savers. He ordered two colonies of 100 each; and five colonies of 50 each. This order also qualified for a bonus of 50 beetles. J. Sherman went to Castle Rock and the Sherwood property. He was surprised to see that there was only an infestation on the east side of Castle Rock and nothing in Sherwood Forest. He will assess the Trolley Bed area in the next week or so. He will then place another order. The beetles will be applied in early to mid-May and will be used to cover Nonnewaug Falls, Orenaug Park and possibly the Trolley Bed areas.

e) Municipal Composting

L. Peters stated that she had found the town of Seymour has a contract with a waste to energy company named Covanta in Bristol. The company services commercial and residential endeavors

in 14 towns within the State. She found information that they burn medical waste, so was not sure that it was a good path to go down. She will continue to research and look into the DEEP website. D. West did a quick search and found the company Curbside Compost that offers residential food scrap recovery and compost delivery. She will do some more research as well.

f) EDA American Rescue Grant

This information was mostly covered under Correspondence. The Commission would of course like some funds to go towards maintaining and improving trails and open space area, but was concerned that since there are so many options to vote on in the survey, it may get overlooked. There was also frustration that many of the items seemed to have been maintenance items that the Town should have been taking care of anyways. D. West stated that the Town is taking \$900,000 from the fund off the top, some of which is going to upgrading the Wi-Fi in town.

g) Open Space Issues (if any)

L. Peters noted erosion at Three Rivers Park. There are three logs placed right next to the trail where there has been erosion. She was concerned that the logs might fall into the river. There was discussion about the area and how gravel had been put down at one point and washed away. The Commission wishes that a maintenance program would be put into place for these areas and trails rather than crisis management when a problem arises, especially since storms are getting worse.

5. MEMBER TIME

None of the members had anything more to discuss.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on April 5, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters
Consensus of the Commission in favor 4-0-0

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
8th day of Mar 2022
at 11:35 o'clock A M
Maria M. Mancini