



Town of Woodbury
Conservation Commission
281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 067989

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2017

Members in attendance:

L. Peters D. Taylor
J. Sherman S. Hobson
D. Leavenworth G. Madsen

Members absent:

J. King

Also attending: K. Doyle.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. A quorum was established.

Minutes – D. Leavenworth moved to accept the February 23 meeting minutes, seconded by S. Hobson. Minutes unanimously approved.

New Business –

Woodbury Cleanup Day – The annual Cleanup Day will be on April 8th, with a snow date of April 15th. D. Leavenworth is supplying the chili. J. Sherman has put notices in Voices and the Republican-American, has been in contact with Westover school and will contact the Boy Scouts and several other groups. G. Madsen and L. Peters volunteered to be at the Hollow with J. Sherman for sign-ins at 8 am.

Earth Day Planning – Chairman Taylor discussed what was needed for planning the April 22 event at Hollow Park. S. Hobson, D. Leavenworth and L. Peters will help with setup. D. Leavenworth will man the table for the first 2 hours, L. Peters the last 2 and G. Madsen from 1-4 pm. L. Peters will bring two tables and a chair and will ask Park and Rec if they have a tent to borrow. She will also bring water jugs, rope and fish-themed stickers. She will also order a banner for the table/tent based on a logo design which J. Sherman will refine. Walking Woodbury brochures and invasive plant pamphlets, as well as past copies of newsletters, will be handed out. The new open space map from COG, in large and smaller formats, will be displayed. Dave will ask the Land Use Office for an easel and copies. S. Hobson will bring the display board, J. Sherman will bring garbage bags and D. Taylor will bring a water cooler.

POCD Planning Update – Chairman Taylor reported that the Planning Commission has requested budget funds for a consultant for the Plan of Conservation and Development, but they will likely not get the funding. Chairman Taylor suggested that the Conservation Commission begin on its section of the plan. He requested that all Commissioners bring their ideas to next meeting for what topics should be included in the plan, and what issues each believes that the Commission should be focusing on. D. Leavenworth said he thinks that the river health and riparian area protection are needing focus. He also said open space goals should be included. Chairman Taylor noted that the Planning Commission is having speakers from various groups during the next few months, including L. DeJong from PRWC.

Old Business

Reservoir Property Management Committee Update – Chairman Taylor reported that the Reservoir Property Management Committee has begun with the task of creating a management plan. They will likely hire a consultant for help. Selectwoman B. Perkinson is chairing the Committee. They will hold a special meeting this Friday to speak with representatives from the NE Mountain Bike Association, which is interested in making and maintaining biking trails. D. Taylor noted that he would like to get more information on what it would take to make the flat part of the trail from the Old Sherman Hill parking area accessible to wheelchairs. Parking issues and boundary marking were also discussed.

Open Space – Chairman Taylor said all the information is in to COG for producing an up-to-date open space map. D. Leavenworth suggested that Commission members be given the map to review before final copies are produced. It was also suggested that the map be dated. Chairman Taylor said there is currently about 13.5% protected open space in the Town. He also reported that the recommendation to purchase the Sherwood property was sent to the Selectmen. They discussed it at their last meeting and it is now being reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Low Impact Development – D. Leavenworth said he thinks that there are many misconceptions about what LID is and is not. Its impact on water, especially ground water retention, is not well understood by Board and Commission personnel. The 90/90 concept, which is that 90% of water is retained in 90% of rainfall events, does not require significant cost in new projects, and older projects can be retrofitted. This helps immensely during both drought and flooding conditions. G. Madsen offered to look into speakers on this topic.

Invasive Plants – S. Hobson will bring his remaining invasive plant brochures for the Earth Day table.

Nonnewaug Falls – D. Leavenworth said that the Nonnewaug Falls property is still unprotected through easement. He thought First Selectman Butterly might be working on this, and also on the agricultural leases for Nonnewaug Falls and Three Rivers Park. D. Leavenworth also reported that the State legislature is considering a constitutional provision that prevents the State from selling off public open space land.

Member Time – J. Sherman reported that Inland Wetlands turned down the application for the Hardisty/Main Street property (referred to as Dollar General) and for the DeVino/Main Street property (Marketplace) expansion of parking. Both decisions were very detailed in their documentation and rationale. L. Peters said there were questions at the last Zoning meeting about a property on S. Pomperaug Ave. that could possibly be considered for a supermarket. D. Leavenworth said that property is in a flood plain, although it does not show that on older maps because there was a mound of gravel there that was later removed. L. Peters said the Zoning meeting last week was cancelled and moved to next week. She shared a call to action from the CT Land Conservation Council to contact legislators regarding budget cuts to DEEP and constitutional changes to protect land, and other revenue proposals such as a 1% conveyance tax for Town open space funding and an extension of the 5-cent bottle deposit.

Correspondence – Habitat and CT Wildlife magazines were distributed.

Privilege of the Floor – K. Doyle said she would like to see in the POCD a plan to put in place Management Plans for all open space in Town, and to identify key open space to protect. She also noted that S. Hayden is putting together a LID manual for land use boards, and she would like to see the Conservation Commission review this with the other Boards and Commissions and Land Use Office. Ms. Doyle mentioned Wheels in the Woods, a not-for-profit group that may have ideas/cost estimates for making the Reservoir trail handicapped accessible. She noted that the property has not yet been named or marked, and may not be technically covered by Park and Rec ordinances.

L. Peters moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Sherman. Unanimously approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kaelin, Clerk



RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 27th day of March 2017
at 3:20 o'clock P M
Suzanne Cooper
Town Clerk