

# TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2019

8:00 am, Shove Building Conference Room  
281 Main Street South

### Members Present:

D. Taylor  
L. Peters  
J. Sherman  
L. Pittari  
A. Musso

### Members Absent:

D. Schultz  
L. Arno

### Determination of Quorum:

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8am.

### Approval of February Meeting Minutes:

L. Peters made a motion to approve, D. Taylor seconded.

**Amendments as follows:** 1.) The last sentence in the correspondence section on page 1, amended to, "The rate has not been increased in many years." 2.) In section 'D' under *New Business*, the second to last sentence should read, "about 15% of the town owned property is protected." 3.) In section E under *New Business*, the 6<sup>th</sup> sentence should say, "they had a walk on the list as well as orienteering." 4.) Under *Privilege of the Floor* it should say, "The town of Watertown owns a piece that feeds into Nonnewaug Falls." Also noted in this section- the large fine only applies to the contamination of a drinking water supply. Minutes were unanimously approved, **AS AMENDED.**

### Correspondence:

Chairman Taylor informed the committee there had been communication from Jen Miller of Parks and Rec. A walk has been scheduled at Orenaug park relative to the disc golf proposal. The meeting is scheduled for April 15 around noon. D. Taylor reminded the commission that they would be allowed to ask questions, but no comments should be made. Chairman Taylor also mentioned that *National Trout Unlimited* offers grant funding for trees. The local chapter of *Trout Unlimited* would like to plant trees at Three Rivers Park. D. Taylor said Jen Miller will be going to Barbara Perkinson for approval of this. J. Sherman thought this was great news as it will provide a better buffer. D. Taylor also mentioned the "Long Island Sound Futures Fund." This provides money for projects to protect any water that feeds into the Long Island Sound. It was noted that this funding could help to fix up the riparian area which would allow a livable space for trout. This is something the commission will be looking into.

### New Business:

- a. Mary Luf from the Southbury Conservation Commission was present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of a wildlife corridor between Southbury and Woodbury, and further if possible. Janie Pearce, Bates Rock Ridge and Shortsfield of Southbury are three of the areas she is hoping to connect. However, between Bates Rock and Platt Park, there is a parcel owned by the Heritage Village Foundation. There has been communication with them, and they do not want any sort of trail through the property. Mary Luf was hoping the commission could look at some maps of both Southbury and Woodbury to find areas that can connect to form this corridor. The commission and Mary Luf held a discussion for approximately thirty minutes looking at various maps trying to locate these areas. Mary said she would come back at the next meeting and bring better maps as there was some difficulty with locating certain property lines. Mary Luf also discussed the "Young Forest Initiative." She has been working with DEEP on invasive species. DEEP comes in to identify animals and the greenery that can help protect them from predators. According to Mary Luf, there are thickets that people like to clear out because they are invasive. However, these thickets can help protect animals such as the NE cottontail which is somewhat rare. The commission was interested in this initiative so Mary Luf will bring the "Young Forest Initiative" information for everyone to the next meeting as well.
- b. Town clean up will be next weekend on April 6. Jen Miller has said she will try to get the bathrooms open at Hollow Park for the volunteers. L. Pittari asked if there were any areas away from the road where kids could participate. J. Sherman said they could help clean up the park itself, near the river and the baseball field. A discussion was held about separating the recycling and garbage. It was decided to make this optional as it would require more effort on the part of the volunteers. A. Musso left at 8:45am.
- c. Chairman Taylor told the commission there would be a new open space map which needs to list the value of open space and relate to people who don't necessarily understand what this means. The commission wants to explain why living things in their habitat are important to everyone. It was noted that the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) is going to be doing some upkeep at Nonnewaug Falls. The erosion due to flooding could get worse. L. Pittari said there is one bench finished and a second is close to being done for Earth Day. She said New Morning has collected about 700 pounds of plastic bags. L. Peters made copies of the "what can be recycled" pamphlet to hand out for Earth Day. D. Taylor asked L. Pittari about the new produce bags that are supposedly compostable. She said some bags are plant based, but others are still petroleum based. These bags need high heat to compost, meaning they require an industrial facility- which is not widely available. The new produce bags still must be collected, and wildlife can still have issues if the bags were to get out into nature. Chairman Taylor has a pamphlet on protecting NE forests which talks about the economic value as well. He also let the commission know that Carol Haskins suggested putting the conservation tent near the Watershed Coalition. D. Taylor said they would discuss the list of things needed for Earth Day at the next meeting.

- d. J. Sherman presented the Woodbury Mines Project to the selectman about two weeks ago. He told the commission that the town would have to get liability insurance for this project and mentioned that Mike Sandone was looking into getting insurance for his company. J. Sherman wants to see if the town of Woodbury can be added on the certificate for this project. J. Sherman said the next step for this project is to go to Inland/Wetlands. Mary Ellen Edwards asked that he get in touch with Brian Jones, the CT state archaeologist as she is concerned there may be state forms that need to be filled out. It was noted that the selectman loved this proposal and seemed excited about moving forward.
- e. L. Peters has done some research on pricing for trash bins which include three disposal sections. The commission still needs to figure out how they will be paid for and who will be emptying them. They would like to place three of these receptacles in Woodbury- Three Rivers, HollowPark, and the North Green. J. Sherman asked where all this waste goes. Paper and cardboard get burned at MIRA. L. Peters also mentioned that she read something stating that only 50% of the returnable bottles are recycled in CT. L. Pittari said a lot of organizations use bottle returns as fundraising, so she wasn't sure if these numbers were being included or not. The commission asked how to get these fundraisers publicized. It was suggested to put them on the Conservation web page.
- f. Chairman Taylor said L. Arno is working on the open space values for the map, but D. Taylor will be working on some narratives to help L. Arno.
- g. L. Peters looked into the wildlife inventory for Sustainable Connecticut. She noted that this section and the natural resources section have a bit of overlap. L. Peters recommended everyone follow the links on her handout to look at the success stories other towns have had as they are much bigger projects than originally thought. It was suggested to break it up and find volunteers who would also be willing to help within the community. L. Peters said the town can get credit for completion if the info is within ten years and proof is provided. The commission then held a conversation about conservation commission versus land trusts and the differences in how they operate. There is a pilot program that 12 towns are interested in, involving a conveyance fee on real estate sales over a certain amount. This could be a good way to get funding for open space. The next step will be to go to the floor to be scheduled for a vote. This may be a better program than putting something in the MIL rate. L. Pittari left at 10:14am- a quorum was no longer established.
- h. D. Taylor wanted to discuss a regional trails map which would outline trails. J. Sherman talked with NW cog to see how they did it. It was suggested to talk with Abby in the zoning enforcement office.

**Old Business:**

- a. Trolley Bed Preserve repair work is supposed to begin sometime in April.

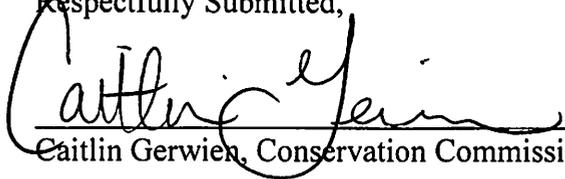
**Next Meeting:**

The next regular Conservation Commission meeting will be held on April 25, 2019

**Adjournment:**

The meeting ended at 10:20am. As there was no longer a quorum, no vote was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Caitlin Gerwien, Conservation Commission Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED  
IN WOODBURY, CT  
This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2019  
at 1:40 o'clock P M  
Stephanne Cooper  
Town Clerk