



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, March 5, 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 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the February 6, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman

Vote: 6-0-0- Approved – Motion Passed

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor noted that the meeting for the months of April and August will be held at the Firehouse. The Land Use office will be notified to update the town calendar.

Chairman Taylor informed the Commission that the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club was so pleased with the Pollinator Pathways presentation that they wanted to see if anyone from Conservation would like to collaborate and co-sponsor for another presentation in early 2025. Since D. West is also a member of the Garden Club, she will help out. The consensus was that this would be a good idea.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Pollinator Pathway Presentation**

The Commission discussed the presentations. All thought they were very successful. The first presentation had over 20 people and the second presentation had around 50. There was immediate discussion of doing more presentations. Hopefully the people on the panel may be willing to come back with a different focus on building and planning pathways. One initiative would be to get a poster size map of the town and start coloring in where there are pollinator gardens to document. C. Aberg will include in the newsletter an invite for people to let the Commission know if they have a pollinator garden.

b) **Town Clean-up Day**

J. Sherman noted that he is working with Kathy Green from Nonnewaug High School and Samantha Farrell (a local parent) to help advertise the event at school. Monica Goti is in charge of the Cub Scouts and will try to promote the event. She highly recommended pizza instead of chili. Discussion continued about where and when to get the pizzas. J. Sherman also made up fliers for the members to put around town. Chairman Taylor and First Selectman Perkinson have arranged to get orange trash bags from Public Works to use for the event. This will help promote the trash program as well. Chairman Taylor will contact Public Works for trash pick-up at the end of the event. He also has the signs to put around town and will pull the permits. J. Sherman will put ads in the papers too.

c) **Earth Day**

Earth Day will be on April 20th. The Commission is registered for a space. L. Peters helped coordinate who will bring what and a sign-up sheet for who will take what time slots. Members of the ad-hoc Waste Advisory Committee will volunteer to help out at the booth and explain the program. She stated that Blue Earth Recycling (the compost collection company for the town) will also have a booth and is looking for volunteers to help demonstrate sorting trash. The consensus was to see if the two booths could be next to each other so Conservation could help out. More information on pollinators will be available at the booth. There will also be some small planters made, seed packets to hand out, along with a raffle of the composting bins.

d) **Three Rivers Park Restoration**

Chairman Taylor informed the Commission that the tree is still in the water. Trout Scapes and Rocky Ridge are working together to prepare a plan. They are heading to the Inlands Wetlands Association for approval. The intention is to plane off the bank and use the tree to anchor it. Then a vegetation plan will be formulated. All were encouraged that progress was being made.

At the Selectman's meeting, First Selectman Perkinson announced that there will be an ad-hoc advisory committee for the restoration of the riparian for Three Rivers Park. This will be a multi-year project. The committee will be about seven people from various departments with river knowledge. They will focus on working out a planting plan to restore the proper 30 foot riparian

buffer area. This could impact the farm leases with the riparian buffer increasing. The Committee will be trying to find grant money for the project. This information can be included at Earth Day if there is more progress by then. D. West hopes that eventually a presentation could be made on the plan highlighting how departments need to work together to accomplish a common goal.

e) Open Space Monitoring

Chairman Taylor stated that Mary Tyrell received a call from someone complaining of dumping at Strong Field. He checked it out and saw some trees in the river and piles of what looked like manure. This is behind the school, so it is really for them to pursue. He also noted that there is no riparian area there and a portion of the bank had collapsed. He mentioned that there are a lot of properties that people do not use as often and the condition is not monitored. This brought to mind the idea of having volunteer monitors for open space properties, which led to a discussion on how many properties there are including town easements. The consensus was to begin this initiative in phases starting with open space properties and not easements. The members can get to know the scope of the project first before engaging volunteers. The thought was to monitor the properties quarterly. Chairman Taylor believes there are about two to three dozen open space properties. He will bring a list of the properties to the next meeting. T. Clark will contact Steep Rock or Flanders to see what kind of forms they have for this process since they both engage local volunteers as monitors.

f) Library Display

The basic library display was discussed. The focus will be on the trash program and the pollinators. The members will meet on April 1st at 10:00 a.m. for setup.

g) Stomski Way

J. Sherman stated that he is still working on the plan with DEEP to use the no till planter. He will be walking the property with Peter Picone in May to see where it can be used, what the timing is for planting, and what should be planted. The Garden Club may be involved. He stated that this is not something that needs to be rushed. He clarified that the planting will be to create a meadow, not landscaping. The Commission is aware that many people use the native plants already there for personal use and have no intention of disrupting that.

h) HWA

J. Sherman reported that he has not found any bad infestations on town properties. There is nothing more to report for now.

i) Next Newsletter

C. Aberg stated that she is working on getting out another newsletter before Earth Day for Spring. Some subjects she is looking at are the jumping worms and lantern fly so that people are aware as they begin planting. Follow up on the Pollinator Pathway presentations and the trash program will be noted. "No Mow May" will also be featured.

j) Open Space Issues

There were none to report at this time.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters noted that her and C. Aberg are attending the CT College Composting Conference this weekend. She also mentioned that she learned that a plastic layer can be used as a way to kill off invasive after they have been pulled up. J. Sherman stated that he has heard of it, but it has to be used with the right conditions to be effective.

D. West mentioned the CLCC Conference being held on March 23rd. Four members will be attending.

J. Sherman stated that there is a lot of misinformation about the trash program on social media. He is hoping for more information from the Waste Committee. L. Peters stated that they are working on a FAQ to be published. C. Aberg stated that they need to go to the admin for the sites and request facts posted at the beginning of each thread. The Committee is working on putting out information on the costs and complaints. There will be representatives at the transfer station to explain the program.

J. Sherman stated that he spoke with Matt Devine from DEEP and the river will be stocked the week of March 18th. He also noted that he had spoken to DEEP about the material being spilled on Route 6. The DEEP representative did not find anything significant. Mr. Roberts who had made the initial complaint was present at the meeting and was very surprised to hear nothing was found. He stated that the next time he sees it he will call Fire Marshall Janet Morgan right away.

J. Sherman also noted that the path along the river for fishing at Stomski Way gets a bit overgrown. He recommended maybe heading down with clippers or a weed-wacker to keep it clear. Mr. Roberts gave information on the access path and the road. J. Sherman said the design for the gate is being worked on.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Dennis Roberts, Minortown Road, asked if the Commission is able to find out the product and chemicals being sprayed on the cornfield close to his home. The wind tends to blow southwest right across the river and hits into his family's property. He wondered if they have to report what they are using. The Commission is not sure on what must be or is reported.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2024.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters
Consensus of the Commission in favor 6-0-0

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
This 17th day of Mar 2024
at 12:10 o'clock P.M
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk