



# Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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## WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman  
B. Hickey  
C. Aberg  
L. Peters  
J. Sherman  
T. Clark  
D. West

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

### 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 7, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

### **MOTION:**

To approve the minutes of the February 7, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman

Vote: 7-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, West, Hickey, Sherman, Aberg, Clarke

Nays: None

Abstain: None

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor noted correspondence from the PRWC regarding a hike they will be hosting to Nonnewaug Falls. The hike will take place on Trails Day, Saturday, June 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

They were asking if anyone from the Commission would like to co-lead the hike with them. J. Sherman volunteered. Chairman Taylor will inform the PRWC.

- Chairman Taylor read portions of a letter from the First Selectmen's office regarding a grant opportunity. Some requirements of the grant are that at least 1 million dollars needs to be requested and then there must be a 50% match of such funds from the Town through the Board of Finance. While a conservation oriented project could qualify, the Town is not in a position to match such funds.
- Chairman Taylor noted that the Woodbury Junior Women's Club is accepting applications for grants. Some projects of the Commission may qualify. The deadline is March 17, 2023. T. Clark spoke that as the President of the Woodbury Junior Women's Club she could provide some more information. She stated that typically the grants they provide are a few thousand dollars. She noted that the application is not very formal; perhaps a one page summary of what the funds would be used for. She suggested maybe some funds for the Stomski Way project. She would recuse herself from the application process.
- Chairman Taylor noted that the CT Horticultural Society announced a grant program available for about \$500 in funds used towards plantings etc. This application is due by April 30, 2023.

#### **4. CURRENT BUSINESS**

##### **a) Town Clean-Up Day**

Town clean-up day is April 1, 2023. The clean-up effort starts at 8:00 a.m. at Hollow Park. J. Sherman presented a flier he had printed up. The flier has a QR code on it for signup. The fliers will be posted throughout town. An email with a signup link will be sent out also. It was arranged for someone to pick up buckets at the Public Works Department. There will be hot dogs and chili made available for volunteers. There was discussion about getting signs made for Town Clean-up day that can be reused to put around town. T. Clark will look into this and get some made. This led to discussion about "No Mow May" signs. B. Hickey will look into getting some smaller ones made that could be handed out at Earth Day.

##### **b) Stomski Way / Minortown Road**

J. Sherman reported that he received approval from the First Selectman to move forward with putting an application in to the IWA. He will try to get the application in for the beginning of April. Rich Lamothe, Public Works director has been made aware to not mow the field. The Park & Recreation Department also needs to be made aware of this.

##### **c) Pollinator Pathway**

Chairman Taylor inquired that after looking into the organization's webpage, he was not quite clear at what point the town can actually declare to have a pollinator pathway. B. Hickey agreed saying that it is not clear. He had been speaking to Jamie Gore, the Park & Recreation Director about the program. She stated that she will speak to the Department and if no one else is interested, she will participate. L. Peters provided a resolution that she had found for becoming a Pollinator Pathway. D. West believes that Flanders has an intern working with them on the project. She will look into that.

The Commission would like for Stomski Way to be part of the pathway. Garden Club members Mary Cavicke and Kerri Clarke were present at the meeting for this topic. They listed off some gardens around town that qualify as pollinator gardens. Discussion amongst members continued as to who would like to participate and what was being considered for the Stomski Way property. The Garden Club has an upcoming program on Monarchs that has a lot of interest and can be tied into this project. They can also feature a program on this topic specifically, which would then be listed in the paper and generate awareness. Personal residence gardens can also qualify, so the group would like for any members of the public who have or would like to have a pollinator garden to contact the Commission. B. Hickey noted that the area near the path at Three Rivers might be a good spot to let grow un-mowed. There was also some discussion about riparian areas that need to be addressed. B. Hickey will lead the project along with C. Aberg and D. West. They will work in conjunction with the Park & Rec Department, the Garden Club and Flanders by getting names and emails to start.

**d) Library Display**

L. Peters showed some display items she had prepared for the case. The main theme for the display will be recycling and composting in conjunction with the Town pilot program. Three shelves would each represent regular trash, compostable items and recyclables. The members arranged for who would do set up and break down of the display. Discussion led to how the pilot program has been very positive at the transfer station.

**e) Earth Day Planning**

Chairman Taylor stated that he could obtain some pollinator seed packets which could be handed out with "No mow May" signs. He will order about 100. The Commission will continue with the compost and recycling theme. They will hold a free raffle for a counter compost bucket again.

**f) Open Space Brochure**

Chairman Taylor passed around an example booklet that the town of Southbury has produced that includes all the parks, open space, land trusts etc. The booklet was published by a grant from the Pomperaug District of Health. D. West will research to see if this grant still exists. T. Clark showed the draft for the open space brochure that she made. The Commission brainstormed on what items and text to include. All agreed that the brochure should be printed in color for Earth Day. She will provide a printed prototype for the next meeting.

**g) Newsletter**

C. Aberg reported that there was a technical error and she did not have a sample to present. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

**h) HWA Project**

J. Sherman read the positive email from Carol Cheah, Research Entomologist, regarding the HWA population as follows:

"I am pleased to report that the HWA kill has been devastated over CT from the polar vortex on February 3-4. I am halfway through counts so have more sites to do but HWA has been decimated, and will be the same for Woodbury. I expect HWA kill at Orenaug Park and at Flanders Van Vleck will be well over 90%. I don't think there is any urgent need for further management of HWA at those sites for this year. The killing arctic temperatures were region wide so that would also markedly reduce any new invasions of

HWA from other states. As I mentioned before, my model based on 15 years of winter mortality of HWA (2000-2015) in CT, established critical low temperatures which would kill 90% or more of HWA, even in a couple of hours, and all indications so far have validated my model.”

This was very good news for this project. J. Sherman stated that there is one area of a new infestation at Nonnewaug Falls that he would like to treat with the beetles. He will do this in late May to early June when new adelgids have hatched. That information will be put into the newsletter.

**i) POCD Items**

Chairman Taylor noted that there will be a joint Land Use commission meeting sometime in March to April. D. West will suggest to the Town Planner to include the Parks and Recreation Department also.

**j) Open Space Issues**

Chairman Taylor noted that he walked the Trolley Bed area and was happy to see that there were some improvements made by residents and the Park & Recreation Department. There are still some persistent wet areas to be dealt with.

**5. MEMBER TIME**

- T. Clark mentioned that clerk Robyn Wright had forwarded her some material regarding the use of chemicals to control invasive plants in Lake Quassapaug. There is a petition against this action.
- D. West mentioned the CLCC conference on March 29, 2023. Members West, Taylor and Peters are planning on attending.
- L. Peters inquired if members of boards are required to do four hours of training per year. There was no definite answer to this. However, most members fill that amount with the CLCC and CACIWC conferences.
- L. Peters also mentioned that the funds for Conservation came up at the Town budget discussion. The Commission had \$4000 allocated for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. It was mentioned that only \$500 was used so far from the 2022-2023 budget, which is not over yet. That is mainly due to the fact that the funds put aside for the HWA project will not be needed. J. Sherman stated that just because there was the freeze this year does not mean that it will happen next year also. In addition the proposal for the invasive plant removal at Stomski Way is \$2300.00. There is also additional riparian work that could be done. Chairman Taylor stressed that the Commission will use the money responsibly and not make ways to spend the money. If the money is not needed it will go back to the Town.

**6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no comments from the floor.

**7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2023. Clerk Robyn Wright mentioned that she will not be able to attend the next meeting in person due to a religious observance. Arrangements were made for how to handle the recording. There will be no phone in option for the meeting.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by B. Hickey  
Consensus of the Commission in favor 7-0-0

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 WOODSBURY, CT  
This 13<sup>th</sup> day of Apr 2023  
at 3:25 o'clock P.M.  
*Maria M. Mancini*