



# TOWN OF WOODBURY

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

281 Main Street South  
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798-0369  
(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyc.org

### WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, April 5, 2022 7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman  
D. Schultz (*on phone line*)  
L. Peters  
T. Clark

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Sherman  
A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)  
D. West

#### 1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the March 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. L. Peters noted some changes needed.

#### MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- Section 4.d- page 3, final sentence—Remove Nonnewaug Falls
- Section 4.f – page 3, second sentence—remove the word “bust” and replace with “but”

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by T. Clark  
Vote: 4-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed  
Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Schultz, Clark  
Nays: None  
Abstain: None

#### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence at this time.

#### 4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Town Clean-up Day**

Chairman Taylor provided a report from J. Sherman on how clean-up day went. There had been 45 people who officially signed up along with other volunteers. There were hundreds of nipper bottles collected, along with computer monitors and rugs. It was a good turnout.

To be recognized was a Mr. Bill Warehan, who takes great pride in cleaning up West Side Road where he lives. He cleaned the road the day before and was now celebrating his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. There will be a photo of him in the paper.

The next clean-up day will be in the fall. The Commission would like to plan in advance safe areas for families and kids who would like to help out.

b) **Earth Day Plans**

The Commission reviewed their plans for their booth. L. Peters will organize the list of the items needed with who is assigned to bring them. She will email this out to the Commission. T. Clark will get some copies of the newsletter that featured the HWA project printed out. The Commission coordinated their efforts on who will dismantle the library display and who will begin set up at the Hollow.

c) **Library Display**

Chairman Taylor thanked everyone for help setting up the display. J. Sherman will be adding a few more items.

d) **HWA Project**

Chairman Taylor provided a report from J. Sherman on the HWA project. There have been a total of 750 predator beetles ordered; 450 will go to Orenaug Park, 200 to Castle Rock and 100 to Three Rivers. The Castle Rock and Three Rivers order may not come in due to the Tree Savers Company having a limited number of beetles. Hopefully they will come in, but both areas are not major infestations.

Nonnewaug Falls, which was treated last year, is set up as a research site by Dr. Cheah. She is currently tracking the progress, which is going well. While it is a research site, the Town of Woodbury will not be putting any more beetles there.

e) **Follow the Forest**

Chairman Taylor passed out a map of the Pomperaug Watershed Forest Cores & Protected Lands put out by the Follow the Forest organization. The map highlights the areas that are either greater than or less than 50% protected.

Follow the Forest is a National program. The Housatonic Valley Association and Flanders Nature Center are involved in this initiative locally. The objective is to find areas of 250 acres of contiguous forest and then figure safe animal corridors available between them. This enables animals to not get isolated in certain areas and promotes healthy eating and breeding habits. The goal is to find forest; not grassland or farmland since it is not protected enough. Flanders will be sending out people to identify and describe areas in an effort to protect these areas even though they are not officially protected open space.

The Commission felt this is a really good program. D. Schultz inquired as to what width of land makes a corridor. D. Taylor stated that was not clear yet. There doesn't seem to be strict criteria, rather according to the topography and other circumstances of a given area. The Housatonic Valley Association and Flanders have information on their website. The official website is [www.followtheforest.org](http://www.followtheforest.org).

D. Taylor noted a statement of Follow the Forest. "We aim to protect a resilient landscape in a time of increased ecological disturbances with core forests of 250 plus acres."

**f) Municipal Composting**

L. Peters discussed the new DEEP program for people who do not want to compost at home. This program was discussed at the latest BOS meeting as an alternative since the town contract with MIRA will be expiring in June. The program is in the very early stages. It is a grant program with no financial risk to the Town.

Christine O'Neill spoke at the BOS meeting about the Sustainable Manageable Materials Grant. It is a one year pilot program. People would be given two different colored bags. One color would be for regular trash; the other color would be for organic compostable materials. The bags would be deposited at the transfer station. This could be very easy for people who already go to the transfer station regularly. The whole point is to reduce the amount of waste being transported out of state. The compostable materials can be turned into some sort of energy or fuel. Connecticut Magazine April 2022 edition featured an article about DEEP and what is being done with our garbage.

The BOS will also be meeting with NVCOG for clarification on the program. The grant includes funding for helping to educate the public. L. Peters will go to the BOS meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> to get more information and to help get the Conservation Commission involved.

**g) Open Space Issues (if any)**

There were no open space issues at this time.

**5. MEMBER TIME**

Chairman Taylor informed the Commission that he and J. Sherman will be talking with other towns in regards to the town use of pesticide and insecticides. T. Clark inquired if this is the same initiative that the town of Monroe started. D. Taylor stated that initiative was in regards to using only native plants. T. Clark reiterated that this is a good time to get this in front of Zoning before the new regulations are approved. D. Taylor and J. Sherman will try to meet with those Commissions as well in regards to native plants.

**6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Rd., addressed the Commission. Ms. Doyle asked if Follow the Forest would be something like the Castle Rock, Sherwood Forest and O&G area. D. Taylor stated that classifies as contiguous forest. Ms. Doyle asked if there are restrictions for creating passive trails on the corridors. D. Taylor stated that the initiative is only trying to identify the areas to keep open, but it is not regulatory. She also suggested speaking with O&G since they own so much land and they could think about the program as well. She wondered if the ridgeline ordinance could help protect areas.

Ms. Doyle stated that at the BOS meeting, there was a PowerPoint presentation regarding composting given by an environmental engineer for DEEP. She encouraged the Commission to see the presentation. She was very frustrated that Conservation was not invited since this has been part of Conservation's minutes for months.

As a member of the Shade Tree Committee, Bud Neil talked to the committee regarding using native species only. She feels that this along with the use of pesticides should be looked at as a Town. This should be addressed not just by Zoning, but by all land use commissions; Planning, IWA, ZBA and Zoning. She believes that Newtown has a full scale plan done and encourages that also for Woodbury so that Landscape Architects have an idea of what the town is looking for. A joint Land Use commissions meeting would be helpful to share all of these ideas. Once the new Zoning Regulations are in place, it would be much harder to make change.

**7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be held on May 3, 2022.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. Schultz  
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

This 8<sup>th</sup> day of Apr 2022  
at 7:40 o'clock A M

*Anna M. Mancini*  
Town Clerk