



# Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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## WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

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

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman  
L. Peters  
J. Sherman  
D. West  
C. Aberg

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

T. Clark  
B. Hickey

### 1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

### 2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the April 4, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

#### MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, West, Aberg, Sherman

Nays: None

Abstain: None

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS

Chairman Taylor thanked everyone for the wonderful job on the library display. He received many comments about the display regarding the composting and the readable information on the HWA. Marla

Martin, the Adult Librarian informed Chairman Taylor that the case was such a success that it is reserved for the Commission for next April.

Vince LaFontan had gone to the April 13, 2023, Board of Selectmen meeting in an effort for the Town to become part of the Highlands Grant Program. The Town would then benefit from funds available for purchasing and restoring property in highland areas. The Selectmen voted unanimously to be included in the program.

#### 4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Pollinator Pathway**

Chairman Taylor has been doing some research on how to actually be considered a Pollinator Pathway town. Most of the surrounding towns are participating, so the Commission will try to obtain any additional information from people they may be in contact with.

b) **Stomski Way**

Chairman Taylor noted that after last month's meeting when members of the public had some input, he had a meeting with First Selectman Perkinson. He wanted to make it clear that the Conservation Commission was not blocking any progress in resolving the gate issue. The result was that once the Parks & Recreation Department director returned from leave the town will move forward on fixing the gate problem.

D. West stated that she was walking the property last month and was concerned about the cement debris in the area. Chairman Taylor stated that there is a pending request to remove it. He will check on that again. J. Sherman will be going to the IWA sometime in May with an application for the knotweed removal project.

c) **Open Space Brochure**

Chairman Taylor had reviewed the Open Space brochure with the First Selectman. He also showed the example of the booklet from Southbury. Selectman Perkinson loved what had been done so far "especially the large print." Chairman Taylor will also reach out to Flanders and the Roxbury Land Trust to see if they would like to have their properties included. This project will continue to move forward with the same layout as the Southbury brochure.

d) **Newsletter**

C. Aberg and T. Clark had produced the Spring Newsletter. The members all commented on how nice it turned out. The amount of material and the layout were great. The members started to brainstorm on topics that could be used for the next one. Some topics for consideration were the knotweed project, trout, Nonnewaug Falls (the HWA project, the hike on trails day and erosion from dirt bikes.)

Discussion led to the composting program. At a recent composting program meeting a participant of the program asked if Waste Zero could put a compost collection bin at her condo complex. They said they will look into this. There will be a virtual meeting sponsored by NVCOG on May 22, 2023. L. Peters is registered to attend and will ask some questions regarding composting and recycling at that time. There was a brief discussion about natural / green burials. There is a bill in process in the State. L. Peters stated it didn't look like it was going to pass.

e) **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**

J. Sherman stated that he will be receiving one colony of the predator beetles around May 16<sup>th</sup>. They will be applied at Nonnewaug Falls. He will inform the Commission of the date for anyone who would like to attend.

f) **POCD Items**

g) **Discussion of Joint Land Use Meeting**

These two items were discussed concurrently. Chairman Taylor read a letter from Town Planner Agresta regarding the upcoming Joint Land Use Meeting. The focus should be on the goals of the POCD; not just a summary from each commission but a more substantive look at the goals and more of a round table discussion on how best they can be achieved. Many goals are inter-related between many boards and commissions. The discussion should be all who would like to be included and not just the chairmen. The meeting will be scheduled in September in order to allow for commissions to have time to prepare in advance. The members were asked if they had a preference of either September 13 or 20, 2023. All members were ok with either date. D. West inquired if the Parks and Recreation Department will be included. Chairman Taylor stated it will be Land Use Boards only. D. West will try to push to have P & R there also since many goals are inter-related. Chairman Taylor encouraged all members to look over the POCD Implementation Summary for any items Conservation is involved with or responsible for and to be prepared to start talking about this at future meetings. C. Aberg stated that she will state at the joint meeting that she thinks the town is in need of a grant writer.

h) **Open Space Issues**

Parks & Rec is working on a plan with the IWA in the next couple of weeks in regards to the trees cut down at Hollow Park. There were no other issues.

## 5. MEMBER TIME

Chairman Taylor noted a release from the White House that there is a National Strategy to Develop Statistics for Environmental Economic Decisions. There was an interview with a Professor of Natural Resource Economics of Yale which stated that natural resources are a key part of the country's environmental health. The environment contributes to the country's national welfare, productivity and wellbeing. Currently the GDP and Unemployment data does not reflect environmental data. Over a 15 year period environmental data will be added to the balance sheet and thereby impact decision making nationally. Natural assets will have an economic value compatible to other economic data. The members all thought this was a very positive change.

J. Sherman talked about how members of the public had complained last month that the trout restocking truck from DEEP could not access the river at Stomski Way. J. Sherman got in contact with DEEP and arranged to be available to open the gate tomorrow so that the Nonnewaug River will get restocked. The Pomperaug and Weekepeemee rivers will also be stocked. The members all appreciated his effort on this and suggested getting a photo taken for the paper.

L. Peters stated that currently the transfer station is looking for help on Saturdays to distribute the composting bags to the public. She was asked if the Conservation Commission would be willing to help out with this. This could be used as a good public relations event for the Commission. Chairman Taylor felt this is a planning issue with NVCOG and will think about it to see how they might resolve this.

L.Peters continued with that she had attended an online seminar from NVCOG about invasive species. The discussion had listed off the top 10 invasive plants. DEEP is also putting together a list of native plants and where to buy them that will be on their website in the next few weeks.

L. Peters also mentioned that NVCOG is offering rain barrels and home composters at wholesale prices through May 11. Orders will need to be picked up May 13, 2023.

**6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Charmaigne Samoska, 180 Minortown Road, addressed the Commission. Ms. Samoska had just been at the P& R meeting to present the minutes from the April Conservation Commission meeting. She also stated that Building Inspector Gary Testa has informed all businesses and facilities in town that if they are not in compliance with ADA standards they are subject to action from the Department of Justice of the United States. She noted that the gate at Stomski Way is not in compliance with ADA code. She spoke with Selectman Reddington-Hughes who noted the town is trying to get funds for the new gate. J. Sherman informed Ms. Samoska that the Commission had spoken to the First Selectman also and that P&R will be handling this issue once the Director is back from leave. She was also informed of the trout restocking. There was brief discussion related to the farm leases and what they have access to and what the public does.

**7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2023.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

To adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters  
Consensus of the Commission in favor 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robyn Wright*

Robyn Wright  
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

RECEIVED & FILED  
IN WOODBURY, CT  
This 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023  
at 10:45 o'clock A M  
*Maria M Mancini*  
Town Clerk

*Copies of documents and meeting audio are available at the Land Use Office*