

Town of Woodbury
Conservation Commission
281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 067989

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2017

Members in attendance:

L. Peters D. Taylor
J. Sherman S. Hobson
D. Leavenworth G. Madsen

Members absent:

J. King

Also attending: K. Doyle.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:04 am. A quorum was established.

Minutes – S. Hobson moved to accept the April 27 meeting minutes, seconded by J. Sherman. Minutes unanimously approved.

New Business –

CFPA Trails Day – Chairman Taylor discussed the Trails Day hike at the Trolley Bed Preserve on June 3 from 10-11 am. He said that people will just show up at the main entrance, so he had no idea of the number of participants. J. Sherman, D. Leavenworth, L. Peters and D. Taylor will be there to assist. D. Taylor had a couple Trails Day Volunteer t-shirts for that day. He will bring the Conservation Commission banner to hang somewhere at the entrance. Parking would be left up to participants, as there is no official parking established yet. D. Taylor said the volunteers could either space out on the trail to provide information, or walk along with the group-the method will be determined by the group size. D. Leavenworth will give an introductory talk and answer questions about the Preserve and its history. D. Taylor asked all volunteers to be prepared to discuss the conservation value of the property. D. Taylor will check with J. Miller from Park and Rec to see if a notice in the newspaper will address proper footwear for perhaps wet or muddy areas. D. Leavenworth noted that there are some drainage problems that need to be addressed., and that maintenance will need to be done periodically. D. Taylor said this topic is being discussed by the Reservoir Property Management Committee, but it needs priority. D. Leavenworth will discuss with Selectwoman Perkinson. L. Peters noted that any work may need to be approved by Inland Wetlands.

POCD Planning Update – Chairman Taylor asked Commission members to send him any additional ideas for inclusion in the POCD, then he will send the list of ideas to the Planning Commission to get them thinking about what will be included. L. Peters said there could possibly be money for a POCD consultant if there is any LoCip grant funding that comes through, but this is dubious based on the State's financial condition.

Summer Meeting Schedule – After discussion about summer schedules, S. Hobson moved to cancel the July and August meetings due to expected lack of quorum, unless any unusually pressing actions were needed. J. Sherman seconded. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

Reservoir Property Management Committee Update – Chairman Taylor reported that a draft Management Plan has been submitted by the consultant, Hunter Brawley. It is being reviewed by the Committee for discussion at the next meeting on June 12. He said it follows fairly closely the recommendations of the Trolley Bed Planning Committee final report. The draft allows for biking, but the RPMC has not approved this yet. Several Commissioners expressed concern about mountain biking on the site. A potential Eagle Scout project could be established to mark the boundaries. J. Sherman offered to help in locating the boundaries in any areas that

have digital survey maps, as he has an app to locate markers which he could assist the Eagle Scout candidate in using. Adjacent Town property needs to be marked, but it is unclear if those properties have similar surveys as the property acquired from Aquarion.

Open Space – Chairman Taylor said the new open space map is now in the library for public viewing. He requested that if anyone finds a mistake or knows of protected/open property that is not on the map, the person needs to provide the property address, map/lot/block, deed book and page number and the owner. This information can then be reviewed and added to update the map. Discussion also took place on Town property that should be managed, and how input could be collected.

Low Impact Development – G. Madsen asked if any builders/developers were at the presentation that was given on LID by S. Hayden; D. Taylor said there were. G. Madsen said he spoke to S. Hayden, who is working on a guide for adding LID requirements into Town regulations. He is working on this through a grant to the Northwest Conservation District. G. Madsen discussed education of the public on these concepts. D. Taylor said the Town and Boards need to get informed, then engage in discussions about getting regulations passed to include the concepts. S. Hayden did not give a time frame when his document would be ready. G. Madsen shared information from the LID Center in New Jersey, which could provide educational resources. They also hold conferences. D. Leavenworth noted that the funding for Mr. Hayden's project is safely committed.

Invasive Plants – no new information.

Nonnewaug Falls – Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition is hosting a walk at Nonnewaug Falls on June 4. Time and additional information can be found on the PRWC website.

Member Time - L. Peters reported on the Zoning meeting held on May 9. Most of the discussion was about landscaping for the apartment building proposal on Main Street North. She said this was not LID, but for screening for neighboring properties. Discussion was held about temporary parking at the Middle School for the Region 14 Offices, which will relocate during the Nonnewaug renovation. At the meeting this week, the Zoning Commission again discussed a multi-residence district proposal and asked for input. They will also conduct a site walk at the Nonnewaug High School on Jun 6 at 5:00 pm to discuss proposed field changes. D. Leavenworth spoke about the previous discussion about the river corridor property near Jack's Bridge, across from Three Rivers Park, which has been offered to the Town. He said he had heard the Town has said it is not interested in purchasing the property. He asked why this was decided, and what the process is for evaluating properties that may be available to the Town, for purchase or donation. He said it needs to be clarified, and that the Conservation Commission should have some input. J. Sherman asked if Flanders had any input/interest. G. Madsen said the Conservation Commission should at least be notified. There used to be an Ad-hoc Open Space Committee, that then gave way to an Open Space Acquisition Committee, then was dissolved. L. Peters noted that the Selectmen's meeting tonight has on their agenda an executive session to discuss land purchase and lease, but the property(s) under discussion are not known. Discussion was held on the status of the Sherwood property, which the Conservation Commission recommended during a previous meeting that the Town purchase. L. Peters will attend the Selectmen's meeting and report back.

Correspondence – none.

Privilege of the Floor – K. Doyle said that, regarding management of open space and decisions on parcels, she would like to see the POCD recommend reestablishing a permanent O/S Subcommittee. She said she is concerned that open space is not being managed, and that Park and Rec is not going to be able to manage all the properties under its purview. D. Leavenworth added that there should be an information chain procedure established, and that State statute allows for overview of open space by the Conservation Commission.

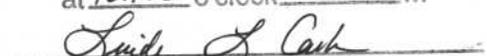
S. Hobson moved to adjourn; seconded by D. Leavenworth. Unanimously approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 9: 20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Kaelin, Clerk



RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT

This 26th day of May 2017
at 12:05 o'clock P M


Town Clerk