



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, May 3, 2022

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*on phone line*)
D. West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. Schultz
A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the April 5, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There were some changes noted. D. Taylor thought he spoke of native plant regulations only and not insecticides and pesticides. The recording mentions both.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- Section 4.a, 2nd paragraph—Correct the spelling of Mr. Bill Wehrhahn
- Section 5—Chairman Taylor intended to only speak of regulations of native plants, not insecticides and pesticides.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. Taylor

Vote: 5-0-0 –Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, West, Sherman, Clark

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor noted a letter from the Selectmen's Office that the Town Attorney has stated there is no longer a need to conduct meetings in the hybrid format. Chairman Taylor asked how the Commission would like to handle the meetings going forward. The consensus was to continue to conduct hybrid meetings for now. Chairman Taylor will contact the Selectmen and Land Use office's to notify them that they will continue.
- Chairman Taylor noted a letter from O&G Industries to Flanders Nature Center in regards to the recent concrete pad that was installed at the back of the trail house. The letter indicated that O&G substituted 30% of the cement with their "Pozzotive" product which includes their ground glass "pozzolan." Production of Pozzotive produces 95% less Co2 emissions than cement. Therefore, of the 1800 pounds of cement used, 1710 pounds of Co2 were offset. The glass they use for the product comes from single stream recycling from across the State. The Commission was very happy to get this product information.
- Chairman Taylor noted that Flanders Nature Center is doing a good size Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project on the Van Vleck property. They are looking for donations to help support it.
- There will be a joint Land Use meeting on May 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. The main topic will be the POCD and then each commission gets an opportunity to speak. D. Taylor will be attending and will highlight the projects that Conservation has been working on.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Earth Day Recap**

Chairman Taylor thanked everyone for all of their help at the celebration. He stated it was one of the best years. People were very receptive. D. West made special thanks to L. Peters for all of her organization and many items that she brought. L. Peters felt that the seed potting was a good thing that helped get the kids involved. People really seemed to like the smaller Open Space maps. The Commission thanked the PRWC for setting up such a nice festival.

b) **Discussion on Invasive Species Regulations**

Chairman Taylor stated that he has been in correspondence with Barbara Thomas, Chair of the Monroe Conservation Commission. Monroe will be proposing regulations that are focused on businesses and developments, not homeowners. They will be intended to be more like recommendations. D. Taylor did note that Ms. Thomas spoke mainly of plants and not of trees. This led to a discussion by the Commission regarding which trees are invasive and also how climate change is affecting which species are native. The Commission will reach out to the Shade Tree and Sidewalk Committee to get more information on invasive tree species.

c) **Library Display Recap**

Chairman Taylor thanked the Commission for all the work on the library display case. He has put a call in to reserve the cabinet for next April.

d) **HWA Project**

J. Sherman updated the Commission on the project. The predator beetles will arrive on May 17th. The biggest colony application will be used in Orenaug Park. The Commission will reach out to

the newspapers to be sure that the project gets some attention. Another colony will be applied at Three Rivers Park. There are HWA across the river, so the hope is that eventually the beetles will fly over the river to the other side. The third site will be at Castle Rock. There is a small area on the river side down from the Hollow. Matt Minor will also be applying 1 ½ colonies on his own property.

J. Sherman got introduced to the AP Environmental Science teacher at Nonnewaug High School. The teacher was interested in J. Sherman connecting him with Carol Cheah to give a lecture at the High School. This might be arranged in the fall. D. West suggested a mini lecture series for that class. Also could there be volunteer projects the kids could help with. This could be good to get kids involved in community projects.

T. Clark drew the winning raffle ticket for the compost bin from Earth Day. The winner was Mike Clemens, 82 North Gate Road.

e) Follow the Forest

J. Sherman had spoken to two Yale Grad students regarding the program. They had a long discussion regarding Flanders, Town Open Space areas and what areas are protected. The Commission spoke of different properties, deed restrictions, grants and easements. The students are mapping out Open Space properties and animal corridors with an ArcGIS system. All agreed that this is a great project for the Land Trust and the Conservation Commission to collaborate on and to make a strategic plan.

f) Municipal Composting

L. Peters reported on information she received at Earth Day regarding composting. Flanders Nature Center is holding a home composting program on May 25th at 7:00 p.m. presented by the New England Organic Farming Association. She also spoke to USA Recycling about their municipal composting program. They do pick up household compost but not in Woodbury yet. East Coast Compost has weekly residential food scrap pick up also.

The Town has signed up for the pilot project sponsored by a DEEP grant for municipal composting. The program targets those residents who already bring their garbage and recyclables to the transfer station. The residents will be given separate bags for garbage and compostable material that will be brought to the transfer station for a weekly pickup. The compostable material will be transformed into fertilizer or energy. By doing this, waste can be reduced by up to 68%. L. Peters has obtained the slides from the BOS presentation that she will send out to the members. She was informed that the Conservation Commission is part of the plan and listed as a key stakeholder in the project even though they were not invited to the presentation. The Commission is extremely interested in this program and will find out what they are supposed to be doing. They are hoping to formulate ideas to continue to educate the public about composting and curbing food waste.

g) Open Space Issues (if any)

There were no issues at this time.

5. MEMBER TIME

No one had anything to present at this time.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Robyn Wright, Clerk, mentioned the countertop electric composter LOMI. These units are mainly used for urban areas where people cannot compost the traditional way. D. West looked had heard of this product also and looked up the website for the other members to look into.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on June 7, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West
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 5th day of May 2022
at 3:45 P.M.

Mania M Mancini