



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, May 4, 2021 7:00 P.M. – VIRTUAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
L. Pittari (*arrived 7:07 p.m.*)
A. Musso
T. Clark

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. Schultz
J. Sherman

Also present: Town Planner, Maryellen Edwards

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the April 6, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting.

MOTION:

L. Peters moved and A. Musso seconded to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence at this time.

Chairman Taylor noted that several people had approached him regarding Three Rivers Park riparian work. The river banks and trees are not getting any better. He would like for the Commission to be in a better position to apply for some grants that are available for project planning and organizing. Chairman Taylor is asking for Commission members to walk along the Pomperaug, Nonnewaug and Weekepeemee rivers to see the condition of the banks, trees and the riparian areas and assess what to focus on or where to begin. He would like to have a discussion of this at the next meeting.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

These three items were discussed concurrently:

- a) Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**
- b) Newsletter**
- c) Mapping Hemlock Stands**

J. Sherman had informed Chairman Taylor that the predator beetles that are used to combat the woolly adelgid infestation will be arriving late this week. The application of them should be taking place around Thursday, May 13th. J. Sherman will send out the specific information to the members once the date is set. He will be arranging for a reporter to cover the project. Chairman Taylor noted that he would then like for this project to be the focus of the next newsletter; stating that the public needs to be aware of what the woolly adelgid looks like, what it does and how the predator beetle helps. He requested someone to be able to take a few good photos of the project for the newsletter. A. Musso stated she will work to get the newsletter out the week of May 17th provided she can obtain some content regarding the project from J. Sherman.

In addition to the project being highlighted, the newsletter will also bring attention to locating and mapping additional Hemlock stands which are or could be at risk for the adelgid. A Google form survey will most likely be included in the newsletter with information such as the location, who is reporting the information, who owns the property and possibly uploading a picture. This information will be used to consolidate and coordinate where any infestations are occurring and possibly group people together to help defer the cost of the predator beetles.

d) Open Space Brochure

Chairman Taylor referenced the tri-fold sample brochure that A. Musso had provided the Commission. All in the Commission are extremely happy with the format. He suggested removing any town properties that are not generally publicly accessible so as not to invite people to start looking for them. In the "TBD" section he would like to put the Castle Rock and Sherwood Forest areas together since they represent 400 acres of contiguous forest. He would like to also have a section for the northern Aquarion property that is 64 acres in the Sherman Hill and Tuttle Road area. The white trail in the Whittemore sanctuary runs into this area and has mountain biking and walking trails.

Chairman Taylor requested adding the Minor Town Rd. area. This property was obtained with a State grant and he would like to show appreciation to the State for the property. There should be a new picture of the Three Rivers Park. There was discussion about adding Town greens to the brochure to bring attention to them. The Meadow Brook, Fairgrounds, Bear Hill, Scuppo Rd. and Plum Brook properties should be removed from the brochure since there are no trails for the public. Rock climbing at Orenaug Park should not be highlighted or advertised.

The next step will be to figure out what attributes should be highlighted for each area. Discussion ensued regarding providing a map, directions and parking information in the brochure. The thought of using bullet points rather than full sentences to save space on the brochure was explored. There would be a need to find a simplified map. Town Planner, Maryellen Edwards noted that the Naugatuck Valley trails map has some maps that may work. There is also trail

description information on alltrails.com. How the brochures will be distributed will determine the best layout.

e) Municipal Composting

L. Peters gave an update on her research. She attended a virtual seminar on composting 101 hosted by the HERRA (Housatonic Resources Research Authority). She would like to come up with a composting “Recipe,” of here’s what you need, here’s what you put in. You can approach it in a simple manner or a more scientific manner. Her research has found that 25-40% of garbage in landfills is organic matter. Composting can help save money for the town and also help you reduce your grocery spending. She would like to have a conservation talk on the topic and perhaps you receive a composter if you sign up. Sustainable CT has grants for projects up to \$7500. Grant money could be used towards the composters to give to people to help get them started. The NVCOG is currently running a special on composters and rain barrels. The special runs through June 17th. Maryellen Edwards noted that the office can set up a link to NVCOGCT.gov on the Conservation Commission page and/ or print out a pamphlet.

f) Returning to In-person Meetings

The consensus of the Commission was to return to in-person meetings. Chairman Taylor will try to reserve the Senior Center for 7:00 p.m. on June 1st.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters spoke with the Conservation Commission of Southbury regarding the use of herbicides and pesticides on Town properties. There is concern for the butterfly garden near town buildings. The lawns, parks and playing fields all seem to be sprayed with chemicals. This is a big concern for the pollinating insects as well as for the impact on the people using these areas. L. Peters suggested having a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss alternative organic options.

Chairman Taylor noted that the Pomperaug Valley Garden Club is putting forth a concerted effort to have a coordinated course of action already on this issue. He recommended that the Commission wait and see how the Garden Club moves forward on this. He believes the issue will be addressed. L. Pittari noted that there is strength in numbers to affect change, so the Commission should support the Garden Club. Another area to find support would be with the parents of kids who play on these fields. The surrounding towns have already implemented plans not to allow chemicals on Town properties. Woodbury is falling behind on this standard.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments made.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on June 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

L. Peters moved and A. Musso seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor.

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 6th day of May 2021
at 11:55 o'clock A M
Justin A. Cook
Town Clerk