



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 7, 2024
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:04 p.m.*)
D. West
W. Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. Peters
C. Aberg

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 2, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the April 2, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman
Vote: 4-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed
Ayes: Taylor, Sherman, West, Ryan
Nays: None
Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor informed the members that nominations can be submitted for the Bernard Rosenberg Memorial Award. This award is in recognition and appreciation for exceptional service to the Town. Nominations need to be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 31, 2024.

The town of Woodbury will be sponsoring a public walk for the Woodbury Route 6 Corridor Study. The study is to analyze traffic flow and safety from Flanders Road to the southern boundary of town. Anyone interested should meet at the Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. on May 16, 2024.

Chairman Taylor informed the members that the State House passed bill 5004, which has now gone to the Senate. The purpose of the bill is to get to net zero in carbon output. Section 22 of the bill focuses on sequestering carbon in forests by retention of old growth forests and funding for turning open space properties into forests. Chairman Taylor noted that members may contact their state senator to express their position on the idea. D. West also had a form provided by CLCC for that purpose. The consensus was that this is a very good step.

Chairman Taylor also informed the members that General Assembly Bill 5218 is another bill coming up that supports conservation interests. This is an act concerning the establishment of riparian buffers and revision of certain inland wetlands provisions. He then advised the members to look into this bill and again contact their state senator to express their position.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Earth Day Debrief**

Everyone said that they were able to talk to people at the booth. T. Clark noted that there needs to be a better strategy for parking and vendors loading and unloading. Since it was the first year of the Parks and Recreation Department handling the event, everyone is confident they will work out the kinks. D. West commented that some liked the smaller, compact area to walk around.

b) **Town Clean-up Day Debrief**

The members noted that there was a good amount of people helping even though it was a cold, windy day. Everyone thought that the pizza was a good idea, but they may need two pizza runs since volunteers who showed up later did not get any. D. West had picked up two orange bags filled with bottles and cans. This brought up discussion about dealing recyclable items. The Public Works Department will not sort through the bags. The members will try to collect and bring recyclable items to the transfer station themselves for the fall clean-up.

c) **Library Display**

Chairman Taylor thanked everyone involved with the display. The library had thought it was a good display.

d) **Three Rivers Park Restoration**

Chairman Taylor reported that the project is moving along with the Committee. He is working with Carol Haskins on some grant requests. The members updated new member W. Ryan on the status of the project and the areas that need repair. The Advisory Committee has permit requests in with DEEP and the Army Corp Engineers. The objective is to get back to what nature likes, which is a wide riparian buffer area. Chairman Taylor put stakes in the ground to show a 150 foot buffer zone. He wants members to make it clear to the public that the buffer zone will have paths and access to the river. The purpose of the buffer zone is to have vegetation planted that will hold the soil. The Commission acknowledged that this will be a change for the farm lease on the property. There has been communication with the farmer, who is planning on changing the crop from corn to hay on the property. The members were happy to hear that since hay requires less

chemicals that can wash into the river. T. Clark noted that the Parks and Rec website posted a public appeal for funds to support the project. The PRWC is also doing a fund raiser.

e) Stomski Way

J. Sherman explained the property to W. Ryan. Stomski Way consists of 23 acres of land. One third is used as a cornfield; one third is woods and buffer; and one third is an open field. The objective is to turn the open field portion into a wildflower, native plant pollinator pathway. He will work on obtaining a commitment from the town that the meadow will remain a meadow before they proceed with working on a meadow plan with the PRWC and the Garden Club. He is currently working on putting a map together. Chairman Taylor and J. Sherman will work on a statement for the commitment from the BoS. T. Clark inquired about the gate situation at the property. Chairman Taylor said he will need to push the Parks and Rec Department on that.

f) Pollinator Pathway Program

D. West will be working on this project of filling in on a town map where there are already pollinator gardens, in hopes of establishing pathways. It will be helpful to visualize it on a map.

g) Next Newsletter

C. Aberg was not present to provide an update on the newsletter. J. Sherman said that he was starting to notice more Hemlock Woolly Adelgids around. People had been asking him for information on what can be done and he has provided them with information from Tree Savers. He wondered if it might be good to post the information in the Newsletter or on the website. Chairman Taylor advised against it since it is essentially advertising of a product.

h) Open Space Issues

T. Clark apologized for forgetting to work with the Rambler app that was recommended for monitoring open space areas. She will try it out and report her findings at the next meeting. Chairman Taylor will also speak to Jamie at Parks and Rec to see about signs for monitoring at the trailheads.

5. MEMBER TIME

J. Sherman spoke of the HWA and that they are starting to reappear. Funds were put into the budget for purchasing more beetles for the upcoming year. The beetles are establishing colonies. He noted that in Japan the colonies of HWA and the predator beetles have reached an equilibrium which is the objective here also.

D. West spoke of textile waste and trying to reduce the town trash footprint. She stated that 66% of unwanted clothing ends up in landfills. She mentioned that certain retail stores do accept clothing back to recycle. This would be a good thing for the town to do. L. Peters had also been looking into this initiative. She had found a company that recycles the textiles and will pay the town for them. There was discussion that this could be a good topic to be in the newsletter. T. Clark mentioned that the NHS grad night fundraiser recycles textiles. That could be put into upcoming events in the newsletter also.

D. West also mentioned that at the CLCC conference there was a talk of the CT Environmental Rights Amendment to be passed. This amendment states that everyone has the right to clean air and water and healthy ecosystems. This is not part of the State constitution but that could change. This may not fit in

with the Conservation Commission mission, but it is worthwhile to discuss so that individuals can do what they can to support it.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2024.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

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

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

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 9th day of May 2024
at 1:45 o'clock PM
Maria M. Mancini
Clerk