



# 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, June 1, 2021 7:00 P.M. – SENIOR CENTER, 265 Main St. South

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman  
D. Schultz  
L. Peters  
J. Sherman  
A. Musso (*on phone 7:15 p.m.*)  
T. Clark

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. Pittari

### 1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. L. Peters noted some corrections needed.

### MOTION:

L. Peters moved and J. Sherman seconded to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as amended:

- Section 4.d, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 4<sup>th</sup> sentence to read—“...represent 400 acres of contiguous forest including the O&G property.”
- Section 4.d, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence—“Minortown” is one word
- Section 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence to read—“He believes the issue will be addressed.”

Vote: 5-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence at this time. Chairman Taylor noted that Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> is Connecticut Trails Day. J. Sherman will be leading a hike on the Whittemore property beginning at the Route 64

entrance at 8:30 a.m. It will be approximately three to four miles. People may register through Flanders Nature Center.

Chairman Taylor also noted that the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, had signed into law declaring that plastics are toxic and must be handled as toxic materials. That is a significant change.

#### **4. CURRENT BUSINESS**

##### **a. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Recap**

J. Sherman gave an update on the hemlock woolly adelgid project. There was a good turnout of volunteers to help apply the predator beetles. Agricultural Scientist, Carol Cheah, was impressed with the turnout for the project. She stayed late to continue to study the area by measuring and mapping the trees impacted. J. Sherman returned to the site a week later to assess. The beetles had dispersed and he saw presence of the beetles on the woolly adelgid eggs. He will continue to monitor the site every few weeks and make assessments.

These two items were discussed concurrently:

##### **b. Newsletter—Finding more hemlocks. Canvass Town properties first?**

##### **c. Mapping Hemlock Stands**

J. Sherman stated that he was contacted by a woman who had read about the project in the paper. She has an enormous weeping hemlock on her property that is infested with adelgids that she is trying to keep alive. He helped her get in touch with Tree Savers and she ordered containers of predator beetles for her tree. He felt this was a very positive effect of the project.

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid topic will be featured in the newsletter in order to get people involved. J. Sherman will email A. Musso information and documents for the newsletter. If all the information does not fit onto the newsletter, Chairman Taylor suggested directing the public to the Conservation website.

John Trainer, Head of Flanders Land Management spoke to J. Sherman. He is also involved with the Southbury Conservation Commission and Land Trust. He also has been in touch with Tree Savers and has a town wide project going. J. Sherman will also get in touch with his Bethlehem contacts.

Chairman Taylor would like to have the members look at Town open space properties first to try to identify other areas that have infestations. Contact could then be made with owners of abutting properties. He noted that there is definitely a presence on the Trolley Bed property. Chairman Taylor passed out information received from Carol Cheah to the members. The members started to organize to canvass the Town properties together and identify any areas of concern.

##### **d. Riparian Project at Three Rivers**

Chairman Taylor noted that Carol Haskins of the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition will be having a program on river dynamics. No date is set as of yet. The departments involved would be the Selectman's office, the Conservation Commission, and possibly the Public Works Department, the Inland Wetlands Agency, Parks and Recreation, and property owners. The

objective is to explain how a river works and the design aspects that can be used to support the environment.

Discussion ensued regarding the river from the bridge at Route 47 to Judson Street, but also below Judson St. Once the right people understand the river and what can be done, then a group can start to formulate a plan. The objective is to formulate a plan to get onto the budget for next year. Also by having a clear plan application can be made for a grant to the Long Island Futures Fund next spring. D. Schultz inquired about DEEP and the State getting involved and if the Army Corps can do what they want with the river. J. Sherman stated that the Town can override the Army Corps. The Army Corp had rerouted the river at a property owners request after the flood of 1955.

**e. Municipal Composting**

L. Peters had reviewed the information that Town Planner Maryellen Edwards had put on the Conservation web page on the subject. She noted that the information was good but would like to add some bullet points on the benefits of composting such as saving money for the town along with on groceries and also dispel some myths on the topic. L. Peters stated that she will get the information together to add. D. Schultz commented on the overwhelming choices available for composters. He suggested giving some guidance on good selections, possibly even making some short videos showing how easy it is.

**f. Sustainable CT**

The members have not received the information from Maryellen Edwards. D. Schultz stated that she had reported to the Planning Commission that the Town will not meet the target this year. The Town will work towards this goal next year.

**g. Open Space Brochure**

Chairman Taylor stated that due to other projects at the moment, this will go on the back burner. T. Clark stated that she had made notes on some of the properties and she will send those over to A. Musso. She suggested using a picture of the water tower at Orenaug Park. L. Peters suggested putting a fishing icon in the brochure for a few areas like Hollow Park or Three Rivers. D. Schultz wants to explore the idea of taking contributions or donations as more people come into town to explore these areas. Chairman Taylor noted that State statutes do allow for Conservation Commissions to raise money.

*A. Musso left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.*

**h. Town Use of Chemicals on its Open Space**

The Pomperaug Garden Club of Woodbury will be taking the lead regarding the issue of the use of chemicals on Town properties. They are looking for the support of the Conservation Commission with this. The Garden Club is getting information from DEEP about what is legal to use and what else is effective. The Commission will wait on the Garden Club for more information.

**i. Book discussion**

Chairman Taylor recommended the book “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster” by Bill Gates. He noted that the book is rather basic on the science aspect, however it talks of the mix of the

positive and negative impacts initiatives can have. He points to the complications of the new climate initiative goal of 2030 and how that can impact strategic goal planning for 2050.

## **5. MEMBER TIME**

Chairman Taylor asked if anyone attended the CLEAR webinar program on Connecticut Trail Finder. No one was able to attend. There is a project of the Council of Governments for identifying hiking trails and putting them all on one GIS system that is just getting started.

J. Sherman is concerned about the Trolley Bed trail maintenance along with the fact that townspeople are making trails themselves. He feels that erosion is getting worse and would like to know if there is a plan for maintaining the area and trails. Chairman Taylor noted how the POCD asked for the Conservation Commission to recommend maintenance items to Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department. He did forward a list of items from the original maintenance plan of 2017 recently, but noted that none of those items were included in the recent budget. Discussion ensued regarding the erosion. The area had been walked with an Appalachian Mountain Club expert and consultants, and the Town received technical advice a few years back but no action has been taken. Someone with expertise will be needed to maintain the area correctly. There is concern that someone could get injured on the property. Chairman Taylor and J. Sherman will walk the area and start to make a plan.

## **6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

## **7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be held on July 6, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Taylor asked if the members were comfortable meeting at the Shove building. The members were agreeable to using the building if it is available.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

### **MOTION:**

D. Schultz moved and L. Peters seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 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 WOODBURY, CT  
The 3rd day of June 2021  
at 3:25 o'clock P.M.  
Guido J. Clark  
Town Clerk