



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived at 7:03 p.m.*)
D. West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established

2. APPROVAL OF MAY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the May 3, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the May 3, 2022, Conservation Commission as presented.

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

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted a letter from the Selectmen's office regarding grant opportunities available to municipalities. He is not sure this applies to what the Commission does since the opportunities seem to be DOT oriented. However, there were animal friendly road crossings mentioned, and while that may interest Conservation; it still has to go through the DOT.

Town Planner Agresta had informed the Commission members of a survey on the Town website regarding State wide broadband service by CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities). He is encouraging all members to spread the word to residents.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **HWA Project**

J. Sherman gave an update to the Commission. He provided a spreadsheet showing the final results of the project for the year. The spreadsheet indicates each location and the quantity of beetles released at each. He will forward a copy to Carol Cheah so she will also be able to document the activity.

b) **Discussion on Invasive Plants**

c) **Discussion on Invasive Species Regulations**

Chairman Taylor decided to cover these two topics together as the one topic of "Invasives." Discussion ensued amongst the members in regards to the many invasive species and how to deal with them. They considered what would be the best approach to help the situation. DEEP has a list of invasive plants, but the Commission is not sure it includes animals and insects. They will also reference UCONN's information. The consensus would be to focus on a few specific invasive species.

Japanese Knotweed, Norway maple, Multiflora Rosa and jumping worms were discussed. The Commission will work on getting information out on the Town website and the Conservation page, along with posting on some bulletin boards. Having photos is important for people to know what to look for. A list of ways to get rid of a particular species should also be highlighted so that people or departments will not use Round-up or pesticides.

Chairman Taylor also spoke of a Zoning regulation proposal. He could not obtain a copy of what the towns of Monroe or Newtown had done, but will keep trying. The consensus was that there is no down side to proposing regulations be in place for landscaping plans on new applications for development or commercial use. It would be too hard to enforce on a residential level. The Commission will reach out to the Town Planner and the Planning Commission prior to going to the Zoning Commission. The Shade Tree and Sidewalk Committee are very supportive of regulations for only using native plants.

Discussion led to fixing the riparian area along the river. Chairman Taylor said it would be a big project. He had looked to the LIFF for an 80% grant; however, he could not get the Town to move on the remaining 20%. The Commission regretted that it would have been nice if ARPA funds could have been used for that.

d) **Municipal Composting**

L. Peters stated that she went to the Flanders home composting presentation. D. West also attended. There were approximately 20 people, which was a good turnout. L. Peters delivered the home compost bin to the raffle winner. She also went to the BOS meeting and asked about the pilot program for the town. Blue Earth will be the contractor to take the compostable material away. There are no further updates yet on how it will be implemented and how many participants will be needed.

e) Open Space Issues (if any)

J. Sherman mentioned that the Trolley Bed area is always an issue. Chairman Taylor noted that there is an application before the Planning Commission on North Main St. for a small two lot division. The application is considering open space versus a fee in lieu of. The fee in lieu has to be 10% of the value. He thought this was interesting since there hasn't been a situation like this in quite a while.

f) Suggested Reading

Chairman Taylor noted "The Tree Line: The Last Forest and the Future of Life on Earth" by Ben Rawlence. The book focuses on the forest in the Arctic Circle, what forests are really for, along with how forests impact the planet.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters had attended a presentation on a "grant finder tool" that will be made available to every town. Only one Town employee can be authorized to use the tool. The BOS stated that no one has been assigned yet for authorization. L. Peters felt that the tool is extremely beneficial since you can search for grants by criteria. The service can also help provide writers and track grant applications. The tool is put out by Lexipol.com and paid for by CCM. Chairman Taylor noted that the New Milford library has a grant program that is available to everyone.

J. Sherman mentioned the Brian D. Jones archeological dig in Avon along the Farmington River. There was a DOT project where were digging and found remains and artifacts at the 12500 -year-old site. The Avon library has a series of videos from experts about Connecticut, its history, geology and indigenous people that he recommended.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on July 5, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Made by D. West, Seconded by J. Sherman
Consensus of the Commission I 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 10th day of June 2022

at 9:20 o'clock A M

Maria M. Mancusi
Town Clerk