



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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Woodbury, CT 06798
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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark
D. West
W. Ryan
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the June 4, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

Vote: 7-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Sherman, Peters, Clark, West, Ryan, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE & OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Taylor had several items to note to the Commission:

- The October Conservation meeting will be held at the Senior Center.
- The CACIWC conference will be held on Saturday, November 16th, in Bristol. There are no sign up forms yet.
- He had sent out the notice for the LID (low impact development) tour to be held on July 24th.
- The Hollow Park master plan was presented to the Board of Selectmen on June 25th. They voted to accept the plan. L. Peters had the link to the master plan and will forward that to the members. D. West inquired if the Commission could have a presentation of the plan. The consensus of the Commission was that it would be good even if it needed to be a special meeting.
- The Commission had received notification of an application for a solar farm at Fawn Meadows on 36 acres. There are some conservation easements on the property in addition to a utility easement. The application has also gone to the Planning Commission.

Chairman Taylor noted that on last month's minutes there was mention of old growth forests. D. West explained a presentation that she had been to. He wanted to know if the Commission would like to pursue educational information on this topic. The members agreed that this could be a good information topic, along with other topics such as invasives. D. West will contact the Warren Land Trust where the original presentation was to get the presenters contact information.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Stomski Way**

J. Sherman stated that Peter Picone, a DEEP Wildlife Biologist, walked the property with him and Christian Allen who is managing the Japanese Knotweed. J. Sherman presented an email with the results of the walk. Mr. Picone's recommendations were to reduce and manage the influence of invasive plants, restore planting and seeding with native plants, create an ecotone, and add songbird nest boxes. J. Sherman and D. Taylor then got a resolution approved resulting in the Conservation Commission being able to now manage the property as long as they go through the Selectmen's office. Mr. Picone said that he would come back to walk and go over the plan with people who are skeptical of the processes that will be used and people who are interested in the project. D. West said maybe a collaboration with Flanders and the Garden Club could be good. This would not be for the general public yet, but mainly for interested parties. There should be another spraying of the knotweed in November and then mowing half of the parcel in December.

b) **Three Rivers Park Restoration**

Trout Scapes has finished the paperwork for the permits and submitted them to the appropriate agencies. Once the permits are finalized, they can proceed in dealing with the downed tree. Another large tree came down and also damaged the bank. The bank is starting to get undercut and the tree is starting to slide into the river. The Parks & Rec Department and the Selectmen's office have been notified.

c) **Pollinator Pathway**

D. West sent a link to the Pollinator Pathway website to be included in the newsletter to prompt people to register their gardens. She spoke to the president of the Garden Club for ways to collaborate in the fall.

d) Open Space Monitoring

J. Sherman had sent out a basic form for monitoring to the members for approval. Discussion continued on who would monitor which property, how often, and what to look for.

e) Next Newsletter

C. Aberg will send out a draft in a few days. T. Clark offered to help.

f) Open Space Issues (if any)

There were none to report.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters inquired about putting invasives into the compost bin for the anaerobic digester at the transfer station. The Ad-hoc Waste Committee agreed that since it was plant material it was fine. There is no need to bag the plants, they can just be dumped. The members were excited by this and hope to spread word as another benefit of the program. Waste Zero had a representative at the transfer station on Saturday for the program which started July 1st.

L. Peters continued her investigation of nip bottles that don't get recycled. She found that 75 million bottles are sold each year in Connecticut. The towns get \$.05 for each bottle. Woodbury received \$15,234.38 for a two year period in 2021-2023. Towns can pass ordinances that selling nips in town is not allowed, but that won't happen since the town gets money from the program. Woodbury might use funds received for a truck bucket attachment. There is no legislation dictating what received funds need to be used for. T. Clark reiterated that she would like the town clean-up to provide for people to leave bags of collected garbage at the end of their driveways for pick up. She feels more people would support the clean-up and nip bottle funds could be used for the expense of the town doing the pick-up.

W. Ryan noted that by composting diseased plants you can actually help inoculate other plants against that disease when using the compost. This may work better for home composting.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Chris McDevitt, 465 Main St. N., addressed the Commission. Ms. McDevitt had inquired last month as to why the town had mowed Strong Meadow. She tracks bobolink birds there, which are ground nesting and a bird of concern for the Audubon Society. She spoke to DEEP about the issue since it is a protected open space area. They thanked her for her report but directed her to go through the town. The mowing schedule should have been August. J. Sherman will speak to the Audubon Society to help facilitate cooperation between the farmer and lessor to adjust the mowing schedule. J. Sherman asked if she would walk the Minortown property to identify wildlife there also. She will forward her reports that she submitted to DEEP to the Commission.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2024, at the firehouse.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters
Consensus of the Commission in favor 7-0-0

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 5th day of July 2024
at 3:45 o'clock PM
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk