



TOWN OF WOODBURY

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

281 Main Street South

Woodbury, CT 06798

(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyct.org

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2020 - 8:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lawrence Arno

Annie Musso

Lesa Peters

David Schultz

Jeff Sherman

David Taylor, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lucinda Pittari

Determination of Quorum

Chairman Taylor convened the meeting at 8:01 a.m. A quorum was established.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

MOTION:

To approve the May minutes.

Made by Member Schultz, Seconded by Member Sherman

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor

Correspondence

Chairman Taylor noted that he received information about ATV tracks at Nonnewaug Falls. Member Sherman stated that he hasn't seen tracks, but the result of tracks. He described where he thought the location of the tracks were and stated that there's a lot of erosion. Chairman Taylor stated that he sent a letter in to the Inland Wetlands Agency regarding an application before them for a pavilion by the 1754 House. A response stated that they are not cutting any of the hemlock trees. Other erosion concerns were not addressed. Members were informed of a site walk of the property scheduled for Sunday, July 26th and it was noted that the Inland Wetlands meeting will continue on this topic on Monday. Chairman Taylor questioned the Commission on their feelings about returning to in person meetings. Some members were a bit apprehensive. There was discussion about whether to hold the August meeting or not. The Chairman is unable to attend. He will reach out to the Commission in August when the meeting date gets closer to make a final decision. There was brief discussion about trimming at the Trolley Bed, members unsure if it was done through a private individual or the Parks & Recreation department. It appeared that the trimming was to open up the path a bit. This maintenance seemed to be appreciated. The easement area should be marked. There also appears to be someone flushing a truck up by the third gate. A letter should be written to address this concern.

Current Business

Update on the Woodbury Mine Film

Member Sherman noted the film will be placed on the Library's website from 8/10-9/14. There will also be a Zoom Q&A on 8/27. Documents regarding the project will be posted on the website and the Library is going to do a press release.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Problem on Town Properties

Member Sherman reported that the hemlock trees at Nonnewaug Falls are being attacked by Woolly Adelgid. It appears to be a bad infestation. A lot of trees at Nonnewaug Falls are covered in a white powdery residue left by these bugs. An adult tree could be killed in just about 5 years by this. Member Sherman contacted Agricultural Experimental Station and spoke to an expert on controlling environmental invasives and they are going to do an assessment of Nonnewaug Falls. Member Sherman explained that there is an organization in Pennsylvania that uses predator beetles to help eliminate the problem. The assessment may not happen until September. He has looked at other town properties and, although anywhere there is a hemlock tree there is evidence of the Woolly Adelgid, there isn't an alarming infestation at any of the other town properties he has seen. Insecticide is another way to eliminate this invasive, but that is not the preferred method, especially at Nonnewaug Falls with the proximity to the water. The assessment will help to determine how many beetles will be required and thus the cost associated with this process.

Newsletter

Member Musso has several items ready for the summer newsletter. It was discussed whether they want to do a Fall Clean Up. Member consensus was this could be a socially distanced activity. They won't provide food but will have the supplies and the Commission could promote it. The Clean Up will be on October 3rd.

Municipal Composting

Chairman Taylor noted that Municipal Composting is occurring in Greenwich and areas of New York are requiring it. He has read about a small capacity municipal composter that could handle about 3,500 lbs. of compost which supports a community of 250 people. It's worth looking at. Compost is useable and sellable. The town could sell it, or they could build their own composter. The Commission can research this further. How composting works, how fast it works, what's compostable and local composting companies were discussed.

Open Space

Chairman Taylor briefly discussed an Open Space brochure. He has not heard from the Planning Commission on how they want to organize it. They need to consider what properties they want to add in terms of a Conservation view. They will need to have pictures and put thought into the design of the brochure and who they will work with.

Conservation Talks – Tabled

3 Rivers Riparian Restoration - Tabled

Member Time

Member Peters noted that Jeff Sherman had a letter in the July Connecticut Magazine. Member Schultz will follow up with the school system once there is an opportunity. Member Sherman questioned the field across the street from Young’s Nursery now being used as a corn field. They have plowed right up to the river. There used to be trees there and now they are gone. The Town Planner was unaware of this. He also questioned a meadow at Strong Field that has been mowed down wondering what is going on there and if it would be used again as a football field. It was thought that this too would be used for a corn field. The Chairman encouraged anyone who has problems with this contact the Selectmen. Member Sherman also questioned at Stomski Way, an underground storage tank inlet pipe. It appears to be for an underground oil tank. He wondered if it was on Town property and what the deal was with it. Maryellen Edwards felt that the Fire Marshal would be the one to talk to and asked for a specific location be sent to her so that she might be able to research it further.

Next Meeting Agenda Items

The next regular meeting is scheduled for August 27th, an e-mail will go out closer to that date to determine whether it will be held or not.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m.
Made by Member Arno, Seconded by Member Sherman

Filed subject to approval.
Respectfully submitted

Anne Firlings

Anne Firlings, Administrative Assistant
Land Use Office

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 24 day of July 2021
at 9:47 o'clock A M
Jude L. Cook
Register Clerk