



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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Woodbury Conservation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 6, 2023

7:00 P.M., Shove Building Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
C. Aberg (7:09 PM)
B. Hickey
L. Peters
J. Sherman
D. West

MEMBERS ABSENT:

T. Clark

1. Determination of Quorum

The meeting was convened at 7:01 PM.

2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the June 6, 2023 Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion.

J. Sherman asked whether there is a dog-park at Three Rivers park. The Parks and Recreation Director has referred to an area at that location as a dog-park; there is no dog-park at the Three Rivers site.

Chairman Taylor noted an inconsistency in the Roberts testimony regarding spraying activities at the Stomski Way area: the Conservation Commission herbicide spray proposal does not include the methods or volumes used in spraying the corn crop grown in the adjacent field with pesticides. While it was acknowledged that the pesticide spray “drift” (translocation of air-borne material) likely did impact Mr. Roberts’s property, the drift he expressed concern about is not typically associated with the method used to control the invasive plants on the Stomski site. The sentence containing the passage “spraying of the knotweed again soon” is inaccurate: “again” and “soon” should be struck from the sentence; spraying has not yet occurred or been scheduled.

MOTION

To ACCEPT the minutes of the June 6, 2023 Conservation Commission meeting as amended.

Made by Lesa Peters, Seconded by Jeff Sherman

Vote: 6-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Aberg, Hickey, Peters, Sherman, West

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. Correspondence & Comments

None

4. Current Business

a. Pollinator Pathway Task Plan

The first step is soliciting support for and endorsement by the Board of Selectmen for the “Pollinator Pathway” resolution. A conversation with Public Works regarding maintenance of town-owned properties was suggested. Some of the mown areas contain plants supporting pollinator colonies. Commissioners listed existing pollinator habitats, public and private. Landscape and farm contracts should be reviewed to ensure pollinator protections are included in all contracts.

b. POCD - Joint Land Use Meeting

Paragraph 2.3 and its relevance to current events was discussed. Commissioners expressed frustration with the lack of consideration for elements contained within the plan, noting that considerable resources were devoted to its development. “Partner” entities should be responsive to proposals and work with one another to raise awareness and monitor compliance with the Plan. The most significant unresolved question was who has the authority to enforce the plan when dealing with municipal and regional entities. Consideration should be given to what tools are available to enforce the document.

The Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Paragraph 1.4 charges the Conservation Commission with making recommendations to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance regarding the treatment of town-owned open space so the boards can develop budgets to achieve those goals. Commissioners discussed the differentiators determining property classifications, i.e. what is the difference between “open space” and “parks.”

Paragraph 3.4 should be reviewed for further conversation at the next meeting. It states the Conservation and Planning Commissions should work with the Pomperaug Watershed Coalition to determine how best to pursue implementation of the recommendations of the watershed plan. Farming contracts should be part of the discussion. Proposed use of Three Rivers Park for large gatherings should be reconsidered, as well as crop types if agricultural use is part of the plan. The Board of Education should also be consulted, as Region 14 controls property bordering town-owned acreage in flood-plain/watershed areas.

c. Stomski Way, Minortown Road

J. Sherman is presenting the contractor’s proposal for invasive control during the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) meeting Monday, July 10, seeking approval to begin the process. Commissioners are invited to attend. Access and parking were discussed; the area is now accessible and other needs will be evaluated in the future.

d. Open Space Brochure

The Chairman enumerated spaces to consider including in the brochure: the Trolley Bed, Northern Aquarion piece, Hollow Park, Three Rivers, Stomski Way (maybe; it is not finished yet), Nonnewaug Falls, Strong Field, and Orenaug Park. Discussion considered whether town greens should be included as they are “park-like.” The Chairman will attempt to obtain maps of the individual spaces. Descriptions can be drafted for consideration.

e. Newsletter

Will update pollinator and invasive information. The garbage clean-up day will be mentioned.

f. Open Space Issues (if any)

Lack of maintenance and improper parking at the Trolley Bed location.

5. **Member Time**

J. Sherman – invited Commission members to join him at the upcoming Inland-wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA) meeting where he will discuss the Commission’s plan to eradicate invasive plants at the Stomski site.

D. West – Discussion of Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and IWWA. Can we improve communications between boards and commissions? It was agreed more informal conversation between boards and commissions is desirable and necessary in order to develop unified plans.

L. Peters – Invited commissioners to the Council of Governments (CoG) “Trash Trivia” event on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 6:30 PM to be held at the library.

6. **Privilege of the floor**

None

7. **Next Meeting Agenda Items – next meeting August 1, 2023**

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION

To ADJOURN at 8:49 P.M.

Made by Dorothy West, Seconded by William Hickey

Vote: 6-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Aberg, Hickey, Peters, Sherman, West

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward S. De Cortin

Edward S. De Cortin, Substituting for Robyn Wright, Conservation Commission Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 18th day of July 2023
at 1:05 o'clock PM
Anna M. Mancini
Town Clerk