



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798
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WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark (*arrived 7:09 p.m.*)
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. West

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the July 6, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the July 6, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by J. Sherman

Vote: 5-0-0 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Hickey, Sherman, Aberg

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted there is an opportunity for volunteering on the Town Charter Review and Commission that is happening.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Pollinator Pathway**

Chairman Taylor noted that the Pollinator Pathway resolution had been passed by the Town. He passed out copies of the resolution to the members that the First Selectman wanted them to have. He asked the members to come up with other pollinator gardens in addition to the short list they had come up with last time. L. Peters suggested putting the question out in the newsletter as to other possible qualifying gardens. There was discussion regarding the LeRoy Anderson gardens; how visitors are welcome, but it is not clear as to where to park.

B. Hickey and D. West are looking into potential speakers on the topic. L. Peters stated that she had spoken to Michael McAloon who is a teacher at Taft and a member of the IWA. He was doing a research project in the Amazon for two weeks and she thought it might be advantageous to hear about it and how the Amazon condition affects everyone. The Commission thought this was a good idea. Chairman Taylor asked for L. Peters to speak to Marla in the library and the Shade Tree and Sidewalk Committee.

b) **POCD**

Chairman Taylor started with point 1.1 which indicates Conservation should coordinate with the Parks & Rec Department and Public Works on issues with open space properties. He noted that the Commission should be getting this information into these departments in December so that there can be discussion for the next years budget.

L. Peters stated that on the Parks & Rec website there is a master plan for the majority of properties. She felt that this could be a good starting place. This led to discussion of the Trolley Bed plan, which says the department is waiting for a management plan to be finalized; However, that management plan was completed in 2017. It was recommended for everyone to take a look at the Parks & Rec master plan. Point 1.4 needs to be pursued to make sure the Commission receives a budget line.

L. Peters is concerned that the special Land Use meeting does not include some organizations and departments such as the PRWC and Flanders that are involved with items on the POCD. Chairman Taylor stated that part of the objective of the meeting is to talk about that and how to actually implement some of these strategies that involve other departments. C. Aberg felt that there should be a town database for any POCD projects that are getting worked on because otherwise partner organizations do not know until they are getting started or are completed.

c) **Stomski Way, Minortown Road**

J. Sherman stated that the presentation to the IWA went well. They required just a little more information. J. Sherman explained how he contacted the contractor to get the additional information. The contractor seems to have some personal issues happening and is not responsive. J. Sherman finally obtained the necessary information, but now the contractor has stated he would like to put the project off until next year. The Commission is so close to moving this project forward and does not want to delay it a year, especially since it is a 3-5 year project to begin with. He is now starting from scratch and trying to find a recommendation for another contractor to do the spraying for this year. Once the spraying is completed the next step will be for the field to be mowed in December and then he will contact Rich Lamothe to remove all the debris in the field.

d) Open Space Brochure

Chairman Taylor spoke about obtaining the maps on the Parks & Rec website for the different properties. He is not sure that it is worth putting the Town Greens in the brochure but would like to include the typical places along with Flanders and the Roxbury Land Trust properties. The brochure should have a short, basic explanation on open space values since most people do not have the connection between what they eat and the natural world. The members need to start figuring out what they are doing with this project so they can obtain estimates in order to get on the next budget.

e) Newsletter

C. Aberg stated that she is working on the newsletter. T. Clark will assist with any formatting. There should be a draft sent out within the next couple of weeks.

f) Open Space Issues

There were no significant issues noted. T. Clark stated someone had posted on Facebook about a tree down in Orenaug Park. They were directed to contact the Parks & Rec Department to deal with it.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters mentioned the Mitchell School paving job. To the members disappointment, the lot is definitely impervious now. She also noted an article in Voices on the recycling of textiles in Monroe, CT which has contracted with Bay State Textiles. The contractor recycles for about 180 towns in MA and CT and the towns get paid for their textiles. They export to 15 developing countries worldwide. L. Peters thought this could be a good addition at the transfer station. She will find out how frequently they collect and also talk to the transfer station to begin with.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Road, addressed the Commission. Ms. Doyle stated that she believes Roxbury and Bethlehem already have textile recycling in place and get a rebate as a result.

Ms. Doyle continued that the Shade Tree Committee had a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Parks & Rec Department. It was suggested that the Shade Tree Committee get their budget requests in by the beginning of December. She recommended it would be advantageous to get any information regarding budget items for Conservation in by the beginning of December.

Ms. Doyle also wanted to bring attention to the dams at the Trolley Bed since there have been such heavy rains. She felt it would be a good idea to make sure they are still structurally sound. The upper dam has been declassified, so even though inspection is not necessary, it would still be a good idea. Chairman Taylor interjected that the Parks & Rec Department has done good work on keeping up with the management plan on the property. Ms. Doyle also mentioned considering making the main trail handicap accessible. She also thought it would benefit the town to bring in a forester to inspect for thinning.

Ms. Doyle also would like the Commission to consider establishing a trail committee as the town is revisiting the charter. If a committee is part of the charter, it is a permanent body that can't be disbanded

easily. The committee could note maintenance items, obtain grants and enlist kids in community service. The charter will come to a vote in 2025, so there is ample time to think about this idea. Chairman Taylor felt that the suggestion has value and is worth pursuing.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Made by B. Hickey, Seconded by L. Peters
Consensus of the Commission in favor 6-0-0

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 3rd day of Aug 2023
at 3:50 o'clock P M
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk