



First land deed from the Indians
April 12th 1659

TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, Connecticut 06798-0369
(203)263-3467 ~ www.woodburyc.org

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021 7:00 P.M. – Shove Building, 281 Main St. South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz (*phone tie in at 7:05 p.m.*)
L. Peters (*phone tie in at 7:05 p.m.*)
J. Sherman
A. Musso
T. Clark

MEMBERS ABSENT:

L. Pittari

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the July 6, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

J. Sherman moved and A. Musso seconded to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

L. Peters and D. Schultz arrived on the phone line at 7:05 p.m.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted the new mandatory mask requirement for all Town buildings. Chairman Taylor passed out the revised summary pages of the POCD. The items covered by the Conservation Commission will be addressed again in the fall.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Newsletter—discuss content

A. Musso reported that she had made a draft of content that J. Sherman and D. Taylor had reviewed and added to. She will format it and send out the sample to members. Once there is approval, a digital version can go out as soon as tomorrow.

b) Mapping Hemlock Stands

There has been no progress on this effort at this time.

c) Open Space Issues

J. Sherman reported on the Minortown Road issue of a farmer plowing near the Nonnewaug and placing rocks on the banks of the river. If it continues it could become an eyesore. J. Sherman sent an email regarding this to Selectman Perkinson. Chairman Taylor stated that he will look at the lease the farmer has to see if there are any instructions regarding this practice of dumping on Town property. If the lease is up for renewal then Chairman Taylor might suggest putting language regarding dumping in the lease contract. T. Clarke brought up the question of parking for the property and if that should be made part of the lease. However, this is not in the Conservation Commission's purview.

Chairman Taylor reported on walking the Trolley Bed property and said it was not a nice walk. He has made a list of seven items that should be addressed. The reservoir is filling up with weeds and turning into a swamp. There is a red trail towards the tower to the left and north. It is a worn, well-marked trail. He will be approaching the Town regarding maintenance items. He encouraged all members to make mental notes of what they see on Open Space properties that should be tracked.

d) Potential OS Properties

Chairman Taylor notified the members that O&G Industries has approached the Town for them to come up with a plan regarding the property use after the mining has been completed. It would be beneficial to start consolidating ideas for uses. The Town will get right of first refusal to purchase the property. The property would be difficult to build on because it sits directly on the aquifer and would have to be heavily engineered for building. The property would be better suited for recreation and educational uses. The members will start to gather information.

e) Municipal Composting

L. Peters stated that she is close to having all of her information put together to send out to the Commission and then to be posted on the Conservation page.

f) Riparian Project at Three Rivers

Chairman Taylor stated that there is a draft presentation being worked on for all parties involved on river dynamics. Once that has been presented, then the focus can be addressed on the Three Rivers area. The goal is to present the technical information in a concise, easy to understand format so as not to lose interest.

g) Sustainable CT

With Town Planner Maryellen Edwards leaving there has been no progress made on this initiative. Chairman Taylor will meet with the Selectmen to see if any action will be taken on this.

h) Suggested Readings: “Living Shorelines – Becoming More Common in CT for Erosion Control,” CT Mirror 7/28/21

Chairman Taylor recommended this article seeing as it is somewhat analogous to what is happening to the Three Rivers area. Sometimes the efforts to help have made rivers and shorelines worse. He also recommended an article the week before in the CT Mirror on how farmers are seeing the effects of climate change.

5. MEMBER TIME

There was more discussion regarding the O&G property. J. Sherman stated that many areas have found uses for abandoned quarries. It would be good to look and see what other towns have done with quarries. Chairman Taylor wondered if solar may be an option. He directed the members to submit any ideas to J. Sherman.

L. Peters noted that the Conservation Commission meeting was covered in The Voices newspaper. She was very happy that the meeting got coverage and was well written. She also noted that while hiking in Vermont some composite material planks had been put on the trails in muddy areas. She had never seen composite used and this prompted a discussion of the use for trail maintenance since the material doesn't disintegrate. Chairman Taylor stated the cons being that it is expensive, heavy and slippery. It was noted that CT Forest and Parks can give good advice on trail maintenance.

While vacationing in Woodstock, VT., L. Peters was visiting the Marsh, Billings, & Rockefeller Farm. She was commenting on how she was learning of the history and conservation efforts done at the location.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Rd., addressed the Commission. She informed the Commission that O&G had done a presentation to the Zoning Commission on the types of uses the property could be used for. She believes that the Land Use office must have the information. She is concerned about the wildlife in the area of the quarry and hopes there will be some sort of conservation / preservation efforts made.

She was listening to the Board of Finance meeting last week where requests are put in for special revenue funds. She noted that the Trolley Bed was part of a fund. She suggested for the Commission to see what was included in those requests and if they may be able to add to them.

She suggested that a topic/ workshop for a conservation talk could be before spring cleanup regarding yard clean up and alternatives to chemicals. It would be good to educate people regarding wildlife and nests in order to be conscientious about disturbing them. She loves the pollinator garden and feels that it should be encouraged. A. Musso noted that many towns have committed to a “pollinator pathway” program, but Woodbury is not part of it.

Ms. Doyle also suggested starting trail groups with stewards to help get feedback and information regarding the trails so that the Commission doesn't need to do all of the work.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on September 7, 2021, at the Shove building.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

J. Sherman moved and T. Clarke seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Vote: 6-0-0 in favor. Motion unanimously approved.

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 WOODSBURY, CT
This 10th day of Aug 2021
at 11:16 o'clock A.M.
Linda L. Cap
Town Clerk