



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Woodbury Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 26, 2019 8:00 a.m., Shove Building, 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT

D. Taylor, Chairman
D. Schultz
L. Peters
J. Sherman
L. Arno
L. Pittari
A. Musso (8:04 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT

1. DETERMINATION OF QUOROM

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

L. Peters made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. J. Sherman seconded the motion. The July meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Vote: 6-0-0.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor noted that CASCIW (*Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inlands / Wetlands Commissions*) will be holding a conference in November. Members are invited to attend seminars. Members need to submit their attendance request to the Land Use Clerk by 10/4/19.
- Chairman Taylor reviewed a notice that had been sent out from the Watershed Coalition stating that due to low water flow, the watershed is now below level three. The Coalition is advising water conservation practices.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Woodbury Mine Project Update

J. Sherman presented the findings of the mine project plan. Mr. Sherman showed photos of the project that occurred on September 20-22, 2019. Mr. Sherman presented several example pieces of rock that were dug up. Some will be submitted to CT Museum of Mine and Minerals for analysis. The pieces contain iron, copper ore, sulfur and malachite. The dig went in 15 feet horizontally. They dug down to bedrock through mud and removed a depth of about 1.5 feet of rubble. Discussion ensued amongst the members regarding the project. Sue Shepherd (*town historian*) and Mike Sandone were present at the dig. Ms. Shepherd has been researching the documentation of deeds and leases of the mine. The original mine project was documented in minutes dated from 1731. These were exploratory adits that were probably abandoned after five years. There were no artifacts found. Mr. Sherman will present his findings to the Region 14 Superintendent to see if these findings could be used relating to the curriculum for history, social studies, chemistry and geology. A display will also be put together for the library.

b) Farm Lease Meeting & Three Rivers Park

Chairman Taylor met a couple of weeks ago with representatives of Butkis Farm and Logue Farms. Mr. Taylor addressed the concerns of using pesticides and herbicides on crops so close to the river. Alternatives to Round-Up were met with much resistance. The proper method of signage after using such products was discussed. Mr. Taylor suggested possibly closing Three Rivers Park for a couple of days following the application of pesticides or herbicides.

The Park & Recreation department has gone to the Selectman regarding the impact of large events on Hollow Park. Possible consideration of using Three Rivers Park for events was discussed. Parking would be an issue. Mr. Taylor wants at least a 50 foot riparian for the area, which would affect the parking plan. They do have the grant application in with Trout Unlimited for riparian work along the Nonnewaug River and will be applying to the Long Island Futures Fund for the Pomperaug River since both sides of the bank are in danger. Chairman Taylor would like the members to go to the park and walk along the river banks to get a sense for how to put a plan together. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

c) Conservation Talks

Chairman Taylor noted that the Senior Center and the Library are available to the Commission at no cost for any events they would like to hold. Discussion ensued amongst the members regarding the implementation of these events. While cost for refreshments would be minimal, sometimes there could be a cost to obtain a

reputable speaker. L. Pittari and A. Musso will work together on this project and also determine if a budget line will need to be requested from the town. It was suggested to ask local businesses for funding or collaborating with other towns. Topics for the events were discussed such as: rivers and water conservation, invasive plants, composting, recycling, pollinators, bears and animal life and climate change. The Commission will start to look at the calendar and schedule events that will not be in conflict with town meetings.

d) Americore Team Project

Chairman Taylor explained that the Americore project was cancelled because the Park and Recreation Department needed a specific plan for the project in order for it to move forward. Americore was not able to put a plan together. All management responsibility of open space belongs to the Park & Recreation Department.

D. Schultz left at 9:05 a.m.

e) Pomperaug River / Judson St. Bridge

Chairman Taylor explained that south of the bridge there is a lot of timber in the river. There was a meeting with town and department officials along with Steve Gephardt of DEEP to go over the trees across the river that need to be cleared. There is a plan in place to cut, drag and cable timber over to the west side of the river to create a better environment for fish that need colder waters. Rocky Ridge Tree Service will do the cutting. Mr. Gephardt of DEEP will do the cabling. The work is to be performed in October since the river level is low.

f) POCD

Ongoing workshops have been conducted with the POCD. An internal draft of the Environmental Resource Goal and the Transportation & Infrastructure Goal was passed out by Chairman Taylor. The members are requested to review the draft and any items that include the Conservation Commission in order to be able to look at and judge what is worth doing, what the Commission is capable of, if there is a budget for these items, how much the Commission can take on without the resources, and do they have the resources and authority to implement these goals. The possibility of setting up a meeting with the consultants was discussed.

A. Musso left at 9:21 a.m.

L. Arno left at 9:32 a.m.

g) Newsletter

Discussion of the newsletter is on hold since A. Musso had to leave. However, everyone is very happy with the newsletter.

h) Clean-up Day

Clean up day is scheduled for 10/5/19. J. Sherman has all of the gear. Flyers and press releases have been sent.

5. ONGOING BUSINESS

No discussion took place regarding ongoing business due to lack of time.

6. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters brought up the subject of recycling in the community. She has done a lot of research on the subject and believes that the public needs more information and resources for recycling. It is beneficial to keep as much recycling out of the transfer station as possible; however the public needs to know how to handle their recyclables. Ongoing education with the conservation talks will help.

7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next Conservation Commission meeting will be October 24, 2019.

9. ADJOURNMENT

L. Peters made a motion to adjourn, J. Sherman seconded the motion. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn Wright
Clerk for the Conservation Commission

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 30th day of Sept 2019
at 11:35 o'clock A M
Lynda L. Carter
Town Clerk