



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

281 Main Street South
Woodbury, CT 06798
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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
T. Clark
D. West
B. Hickey
C. Aberg

MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Sherman

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the August 1, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Made by D. West, Seconded by L. Peters

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

3. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Taylor noted that the CT Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands (CACIWC) conference will be held this year on November 11, 2023. There are no other details as of yet.

Chairman Taylor informed the members that the Woodbury Pilot Trash Reduction Program contacted him to come and speak with the Commission on how the program is going and answer any questions. They are lined up to come to the next meeting on October 3, 2023. As of late August, the program has collected 46,000 pounds since February. L. Peters noted that they are also going to the Planning Commission and possibly the Democratic Town Committee. The discussion led to the subject of the many condominium complexes in the town and how to involve them in the program since most have private hauling companies. B. Hickey also stated how State law dictates that recycling has to be accessible without a dump sticker. The Commission wondered if there is a way to put recycling and compost collection containers outside of the transfer station gates.

Chairman Taylor inquired as to the status of the rain garden at Mitchell School after being contacted by a Voices reporter. D. West thinks it is gone. L. Peters thought that it got overgrown since no one maintained it. T. Clark will contact a member of the PTO and find out the status. The rain garden could be maintained as part of a classroom project.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) Pollinator Pathway Presentation at Woodbury Library

L. Peters spoke to Marla Martin at the library about sponsoring a possible presentation on pollinator pathways. M. Martin suggested getting the Garden Club and the Shade Tree Committee involved also. The presentation could be a two-part series with possible dates on Wednesday evenings in November and December. M. Martin was going to reach out to the other groups. The Garden Club could present plants that would be suitable for a pollinator garden. The Conservation Commission could present the goals as part of the Pollinator Pathway community; and the Shade Tree Committee could promote gardens on Town properties. L. Peters will follow up with her and invite her to the October Conservation meeting.

D. West had been in Kent and saw some initiatives that the Land Trust had come up with. There were small handouts and small medallion yard signs for sale. The medallions were from the Pollinator Pathway organization. She thought this could be a good idea for the Commission. B. Hickey will also speak to Jamie at the Parks & Recreation Department since she established a Pathway in Darien.

b) Stomski Way, Minortown Road

J. Sherman had gone to the IWA on August 14, 2023 and received the permit to spray the Japanese Knotweed. He is now in the planning stages. The original contractor had some personal issues but is now able to complete the contract. The Public Works Department will need to be contacted to put up signs prior to spraying.

c) Town Clean-up Day

Town clean-up day is scheduled for October 7, 2023, starting at 8:00 a.m. J. Sherman will take care of the press releases and sign-up sheet. There will be a barbeque for all the volunteers. D. West and L. Peters will make chili. T. Clark will obtain the permit to put up the signs around town the week before.

- d) **POCD**
The Joint Land Use meeting which will cover the topic of the POCD will be held on September 13, 2023. All are invited.
- e) **Open Space Brochure**
This has not been worked on.
- f) **Newsletter**
C. Aberg stated that the newsletter is ready to be formatted with assistance from T. Clark. She will be sending it out in the next few days. It will definitely be out before clean-up day.
- g) **Open Space Issues**
There was some talk previously about a sub-committee under Conservation to work on open space issues. Chairman Taylor stated that he is not sure how to move forward but there are decisions being made about open space areas that Conservation might not decide in favor of. He felt that the Commission should get more involved in some of these projects. The Park & Rec Department has a master plan for the Hollow and it would be good for Conservation to get involved in any aspects involving the river.

Chairman Taylor had also attended the River Buffer meeting hosted by the Natural Resource Conservation Services which is a federal service. It highlighted how it is so important for a river to have a healthy buffer. There are parts of Three Rivers with no buffer at all. One item of discussion at the meeting was that the pond closest to Jack's Bridge will eventually disappear because the bank is undercut. Any kind of buffer project would need to grant to finance. The project could qualify for a Long Island Futures Fund grant. This led to discussion of the impact of the farm leases on Three Rivers along with the need for a Town grant writer. The PRWC could be contacted to get involved in any initiative to repair the buffer.

Chairman Taylor noted how an article in Voices brought attention to plans to improve Scuppo Road. The run-off from Scuppo Road goes directly into the Trolley Bed area and erodes the trails. Chairman Taylor will speak to the First Selectman regarding this. The consensus of the Commission was to try to get a voice in discussions on these various issues.

5. MEMBER TIME

L. Peters spoke about the textile recycling program through Bay State Textiles. There is no cost to the town to participate. The town would get \$120 for every ton donated. Discussion ensued about the benefits of this program and where any funds obtained should go. One benefit is that unlike Goodwill or the Salvation Army, items do not have to be in usable condition. Some good locations for a drop off bin could be the schools, near New Morning, Ayla's or Sherman Plaza. L. Peters will continue to look into this initiative.

T. Clark stated that while at a farmer's market in Cape Cod, the local conservation commission were passing out information about supporting pollinator pathways and not using pesticides. The flyer had a QR code on it. She thought this would be a great idea for handouts at Earth Day. A QR code could also be used to direct people to the Conservation website or newsletter.

C. Aberg noted that Woodlake condominiums has a new owner that has expertise in invasive species. The owner will be sponsoring a walk of the grounds to identify any invasive species and come up with a plan to eliminate them. C. Aberg will forward the information on it. Any members of the Commission are invited.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Clerk Robyn Wright commented that the Commission should mention the items talked about tonight under the Open Space discussion at the Joint Land Use meeting. T. Clark felt that it is important to make the Commission's presence known so as not to be overlooked. D. West thought it would be good if they could identify one or two projects from the POCD to collaborate on and start to build a process to organize future projects with.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2023.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Made by D. West, Seconded by B. Hickey
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 15th day of Sept 2023
at 3:45 o'clock PM
Maria M. Mancini
Town Clerk