



Town of Woodbury Conservation Commission

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**WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, September 6, 2022
7:00 p.m., – Shove Building, 281 Main Street South**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman
L. Peters
J. Sherman
T. Clark
D. West
B. Hickey

MEMBERS ABSENT:

A. Musso (*on leave of absence*)

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 5, 2022, Conservation Commission meeting for consideration. He called for discussion. There was none.

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022, Conservation Commission as presented.

Made by L. Peters, Seconded by D. West

Vote: 5-0-1 – Approved – Motion Passed

Ayes: Taylor, Peters, Sherman, West, Clark

Nays: None

Abstain: Hickey

3. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Taylor noted that Town Clean-up Day is October 1st. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

- Chairman Taylor received a note from the Selectmen's office that a chart was needed of all the members of the commission, along with their phone numbers and email addresses. A note pad was passed around for this information. Chairman Taylor will submit this information as requested.

4. CURRENT BUSINESS

a) **Municipal Composting**

L. Peters stated that she had attended a Board of Selectmen meeting. There had been a power point presentation regarding the pilot program that she will send out to the Commission. She inquired as to when the program will be starting. The approximate start date will be January 2023. Chairman Taylor had spoken to Rich Lamothe regarding the program. There does not seem to be any progress on organization of the program yet. When the program is ready it is believed that NVCOG will help train the public. At that time, the Commission will raise awareness by using their email lists to reach people. B. Hickey inquired if people must have a transfer station pass in order to access the free program. L. Peters will reach out to the Selectmen's office for any information on when it will be starting.

b) **Minortown Road**

J. Sherman handed out his proposal regarding a town owned parcel of land on Minortown Road near Stomsky Way along the Nonnewaug River. The parcel is approximately 23 acres with about half leased for cornfields. J. Sherman stated how a few years ago it was a beautiful wildflower field filled with pollinators. There were some Japanese Knotweed patches that he asked to be mowed. However, the entire field was mowed and is now barren except for the knotweed which has flourished.

His proposal is to develop the property into something nice such as a pollinator pathway, along with an oak garden and rolling meadows. There could be paths with benches and spaces for fishing along the river. Everyone that he has spoken to is excited for the project. The two main issues to deal with are the knotweed and some old concrete pipes in the ground. A maintenance plan would need to be part of the plan. D. West questioned if another project that involves maintenance should be undertaken when the Town has not been able to maintain what it already has. Chairman Taylor noted that some of the other areas were much more complicated to maintain. This project could actually be attainable and thereby increase credibility for the Town's open space. The Commission would like to involve the Park and Rec Department, the Garden Club, the Shade Tree & Sidewalk Committee and the Inlands Wetlands Agency to help develop the plan.

Discussion continued on how to deal with the knotweed. The area can be excavated and most likely be treated with herbicide. B. Hickey suggested a controlled burn to eradicate the knotweed. The Commission will reach out to Bud Neil and Janet Morgan on this initiative. T. Clark proposed a joint meeting with these other involved parties along with a site walk of the property. The consensus was that dealing with the knotweed is phase 1 of this project. Chairman Taylor and J. Sherman will compile a list of interested parties and choose a time to do a conservation walk during working hours as the first step.

c) Invasive Plants

The Commission discussed the initiative for getting regulations in place to limit invasive plants. T. Clark read a statement she compiled stating the benefits of native plants. Chairman Taylor stated he will look at DEEP for a list of native plants. The draft regulation should be of allowable native plants rather than prohibited invasive ones. The regulation would be applicable for commercial properties, developments and municipal properties use of perennials, shrubs and trees. Chairman Taylor will prepare a draft of the regulation and present it to the Town Planner for review and submission to the Zoning Commission.

d) POCD Implementation Status

Chairman Taylor stated how the Commission had gone through most of the POCD Implementation summary and reviewed the items that the Commission was to take action on. The Commission should be prepared for when the Planning Commission looks for the status on these items. It was noted that the Planning Commission is having difficulty having meetings without a quorum due to several members leaving. Therefore, they will not be looking for status of these items yet. It was also noted that D. Schultz officially resigned from the Conservation Commission. B. Hickey has taken his place.

e) Open Space Issues

There were no issues to cover at this time.

5. MEMBER TIME

- L. Peters noted that at a Special Board of Selectmen meeting, there was a conservation restriction granted on a property on North Main Street being subdivided. A portion of the property is to be turned into open space. Discussion ensued over the advantage of having these properties around town and who is responsible for maintaining them. Town Planner Agresta had clarified at the BoS meeting that the Town does not own these properties but has oversight of the area to ensure it remains in its natural state. The Town is not responsible for maintenance of restrictions and easements.
- J. Sherman noted that Town Clean-up day is October 1, 2022. He will be at the Hollow at 8:00 a.m. He had fliers printed up. The Commission members will distribute them and post the information online. They will also possibly contact the schools for kids to get volunteer hours. There will be a barbeque with snacks and drinks provided for those who help out.

6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the floor at this time.

7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be held on October 6, 2022.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

To adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Made by D. West, 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 8th day of Sept 2022
at 2:15 o'clock P M
Maia M. Mancini