



First land deed from the Indians  
April 12th 1659

# TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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## WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Tuesday, September 7, 2021 7:00 P.M. – 281 Main Street S., Shove Building

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Taylor, Chairman  
D. Schultz (*Phone tie in*)  
L. Peters (*Phone tie in*)  
T. Clark

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Sherman  
A. Musso

### 1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Taylor began the meeting at 7:05 p.m. A quorum was established.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Taylor presented the minutes of the August 3, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting. He called for discussion. D. Schultz commented on being noted as attending the meeting even though he had trouble connecting.

### MOTION:

L. Peters moved and T. Clark seconded to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2021, Conservation Commission meeting as presented.

Vote: 4-0-1 in favor. D. Schultz being the abstaining vote due to trouble connecting to the meeting.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence at this time.

### 4. CURRENT BUSINESS

- a. **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Newsletter – Great Job!**  
Chairman Taylor wanted to commend A. Musso for the fantastic newsletter.

**b. Mapping Hemlock Stands**

Since J. Sherman was not present, and he is the lead on the project this item was tabled. However, Chairman Taylor noted that several land owners on Middle Road Turnpike had contacted him in regards to doing a survey of their trees. J. Sherman has been getting asked to go to various towns in the State for advice on hemlock trees due to the article written in the Republican American newspaper.

**c. Open Space Issues**

Chairman Taylor asked the members in they have noticed any problems or issues on open space properties in town. L. Peters stated that she had gone on the Pomperaug River walk at the Trolley Bed preserve prior to the two hurricane storms and felt that the trail was quite passable. There was more gravel or trap rock on the trail. She will go back to see if the stones had been washed out from the storms.

The Park & Recreation Department had received a letter regarding Orenaug Park about a lot of trees down on the trail prior to the storms. Chairman Taylor will try to get out to document any issues to bring to the First Selectman. He recommended for members to go out and take pictures of any areas.

Chairman Taylor had looked at copies of the three town farm lease properties. There is nothing in the leases to indicate where to put rock or debris. There are a few more years before the leases renew, however it would be advantageous to add wording regarding dumping prior to the renewal.

**d. Riparian Project at Three Rivers**

Chairman Taylor stated there definitely needs to be a plan in place to sure up the riparian area and widen it in order to save some of the banks. The Judson Street Bridge is slated for repair, however the bridge really needs to be looked at from an engineering standpoint. The bridge is too narrow and creates a fire hose effect. The other problem is because of berms created, the area no longer works properly as a flood plain. The culverts in place are too small for the area. This is the area where Sargent Mohl died in the flooding recently. The river was reportedly five to six feet above the bridge. The entire area needs to be engineered in order to solve this problem.

**e. Potential OS Properties**

The main property to focus on is the O&G property once mining is complete. More information is needed from the Town as to what has been proposed and what the Town is interested in.

**f. Municipal Composting**

L. Peters had sent the information that she has composed out to the members for feedback. She had included a text page along with a brochure she had acquired from "Home Composting Made easy" by C.Forrest McDowell, PhD & Tricia Clarke-McDowell. The Commission recommended that L. Peters contact the authors to obtain permission to post the information on the Conservation Commission website since the format was well received. Additional feedback was given regarding too much text and that it was not necessary to be too scientific in respects to greens/nitrogen versus browns/carbon. The recommendation was

to keep it simple in order to get more attention and therefore possible action. L. Peters will get back to the Commission with a revised copy.

**g. Sustainable CT**

Chairman Taylor noted that this initiative will be removed from the agenda since there has not been anything more from the Town on it. He asked D. Schultz if he has heard of anything on the Planning Commission. D. Schultz stated that there are a lot of items on hold right now since there is a Public Hearing happening for affordable housing. Discussion ensued regarding plans for managing town properties. Chairman Taylor noted that there is already a plan for the Trolley Bed property however the Town has not organized any means to execute the plan. All properties should have a plan. He will go to the Selectmen's office to see how to pursue this effectively. Sustainable CT will be on hold until plans get settled.

**5. MEMBER TIME**

L. Peters said she will have a show and tell at next month's meeting regarding windmills. She is visiting Oklahoma which has windmills everywhere. She will show pictures and give information on the pros and cons of them.

**6. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Kathy Doyle, 35 Washington Rd., addressed the Commission. Ms. Doyle wanted to confirm if the town fall clean-up will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Taylor confirmed that is the date. Registration is online. J. Sherman will be at the Hollow the day of.

Ms. Doyle recommended the Commission should consider bringing in a professional forester. This may be a good time to start looking at thinning trees so there are not so many falling down. She noted that there is money in the Open Space maintenance fund that could be used.

Ms. Doyle reiterated the idea of having a trail committee, which would be ad hoc and have to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Perhaps there could be a sub-committee started in January. The town should take advantage of so many people who are out walking and would be happy to help. She volunteered to take notes and minutes if that helps. Southbury separates their parks into categories, so conservation areas have a lead that has more knowledge. She recommended considering that idea.

T. Clarke noted that there is a large tree down in the Trolley Bed area that should be addressed. Ms. Doyle stated that the Parks & Rec Department has some money allotted in an annual tree work bid or money that is still in the Trolley Bed fund that could be used for this purpose. This is an area of concern in case someone gets hurt since it could hinder emergency access. Chairman Taylor said they will check on that.

**7. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2021, at the Shove building.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

T. Clarke moved and D. Taylor seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Vote: 4-0-0 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 WOODBURY, CT  
This 9<sup>th</sup> day of Sept 2021  
at 7:45 o'clock P.M.  
*Maria Mancini*  
ASS