



TOWN OF WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES January 24, 2019 8:00 a.m., Shove Building Conference Room 281 Main Street South

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**D. Taylor
L. Peters
L. Arno
J. Sherman
L. Pittari
A. Musso
D. Schultz**

MEMBERS ABSENT:

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Member L. Peters made a motion to nominate David Taylor as Chairman for the Conservation Committee for the next term which will end in January 2020. This motion was seconded by Member J. Sherman. There were no other nominations and the motion was unanimously approved. Member L. Peters also made a motion to nominate Jeff Sherman as the Vice-Chairman for the Conservation Committee for the next term which will end in January 2020. This motion was seconded by Member L. Arno. There were no other nominations, and the motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES:

Member L. Peters made a motion to accept the minutes from December 2018- noting there is a typo on the bottom of page 2. The sentence reads, "J. Schultz," it should read, "D. Schultz." D. Taylor seconded the motion. December minutes were unanimously approved, **AS AMMENDED.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Taylor noted the CLCC conference on the 23rd of March at Wesleyan University. He also updated the commission on Mary Luf from the Southbury Conservation Commission- who planned on coming to the January meeting. Chairman Taylor asked if she would hold off until the February meeting. He let the commission know that the corridor discussed in the last meeting is going to be a bigger project than originally thought. Mary Luf would like this corridor to go from Southbury to Massachusetts as a wildlife corridor- not a hiking corridor. She is working with multiple people on this project and will be coming to the February meeting.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY:

Chairman Taylor said National Trails Day will be taking place on June 1&2. This is a collaboration between Flanders, the Conservation Commission and Parks & Rec. It will take place at Orenaug Park- from the senior center to the fire tower to Bethel Rock and back.

FIRST DAY HIKE:

Also discussed, is a program called, "First Day Hike" on New Year's Day. The commission thinks this is a good activity to begin next year. More discussions will take place in later meetings.

EARTH DAY:

The commission discussed Earth Day planning which will be taking place at Hollow Park on May 4. Chairman Taylor asked the commission what kind of information should be displayed. Member A. Musso- who is also on the Earth Day planning committee, said the commission should think of some activities to plan in order to engage with people. D. Taylor mentioned leading a walk by the river with someone who is an expert on rivers. Member L. Peters thought David Bierkley of Pomperaug River Watershed would be a good choice. A. Musso suggested co-hosting a walk with the Pomperaug River Watershed and said she would contact them to find out if they were interested. L. Pittari mentioned a game such as "Throw the trash in the bin" which would be great for kids. D. Taylor brought up the possibility of offering information on climate change, as well as information that is discussed in the POCD. He also showed pamphlets on LID that would be good to pass out. A. Musso said we should also offer the pamphlet for "Walk Woodbury." D. Schultz thought it would be a good idea to offer an orienteering activity to involve the youth. L. Pittari said the Eagle Scouts in the area may enjoy helping with this activity. J. Sherman said he would be interested in taking people for a hike at Castle Rock- educating people using technology for conservation with a GPS app. D. Schultz that there should be a sign up at the Earth Day booth for a specific hike. A. Musso asked about combining technology and "old time" techniques to learn how to find your way. D. Schultz talked about learning to observe your surroundings and L. Pittari added to this saying that people need to learn the basics about hiking. D. Taylor is hoping to have the conservation and planning tables together to offer more information. Chairman Taylor mentioned having a survey at Earth Day to present to the public about protecting Nonnewaug Falls. J. Sherman said this is extremely important, noting all the erosion from recreational vehicles and rain. D. Taylor said that if anything is to be done about it, the people's voice needs to be heard. J. Sherman said the commission should provide information on Nonnewaug Falls, pictures of the erosion, and information on how we can protect it and what that means. L. Pittari asked about writing a letter that would be available to sign at Earth Day. D. Taylor said the survey should be specific so it can be sent to the First Selectman. L. Peters mentioned that only Woodbury residents should sign the petition so an address would be required. D. Schultz added to this, saying there is potential benefit of having people that aren't from Woodbury sign the document, as it lets the Town know that people from neighboring towns care about our parks as well. Having the support of Watertown and Bethlehem would be helpful as those towns also border Nonnewaug Falls. D. Taylor said there may need to be two separate easements to protect

both sides of the river and the falls. L. Pittari mentioned that her mother is on the Conservation Committee in Bethlehem so she can ask about the property in Bethlehem and if there is interest in an easement. The “Open Space Value” chart/map that member Arno is creating was discussed, with members providing input as to how it could be put together in the best way possible.

DESCRIBING OS CONSERVATOIN VALUE

D. Taylor asked the members to send him bullet point descriptions about what each open space property’s value is. L. Arno can then use these descriptions for the Earth Day map. It will also be good information to send to the First Selectman. D. Taylor has a PDF version of the Open Space map that he will send to the commission. The updated map will hopefully be available before Earth Day.

DISC GOLF UPDATE:

Chairman Taylor informed the commission that he wrote a letter to the Selectman’s office in December, regarding the disc golf course at Orenaug Park. Parks and Rec also wrote a letter to the selectman explaining that there will be no set standards for the course. No trees will be cut down, and no permanent tees- paving stones will be used. In December, D. Taylor received a note from the office of the Selectman asking for the deed that was referenced in his letter. The deed states that the property must be retained as a park for the pleasure of the people. If it is not, the property reverts to the heirs of Susan Shove. A meeting with Parks & Rec and Barbara Perkinson was held, where it was decided that the interested parties would do a walk of the property. When a date is scheduled for the walk, D. Taylor will let the commission know. D. Schultz mentioned making the course Low Impact since there will be no standards. L. Peters made a comment about the skate park being closed because of liability, saying we need to look forward and anticipate what can happen.

TROLLEY BED MINES PROJECT:

Member Sherman handed out an update on the Trolley Bed Mines Project. He is trying to connect two men, John Creasy and John Sherman- and their property, to where he found the mines. Mike Sandone- who would be leading the project, has gotten in touch with Central Connecticut Grotto. J. Sherman has also been keeping Mary Terrell in the loop as there is water involved. A proposal for the dig is in the works and will hopefully be presented in the February meeting. He is also hoping to work with genealogists and people who specialize in old documents to continue his search for connecting the properties. D. Taylor noted the mines are not actually on the Trolley Bed property, but adjacent to it. The mines are, however, only accessible by way of the Trolley Bed path. J. Sherman left at 9:22am.

PLASTIC BAGS CAMPAIGN:

L. Peters said towns are banning plastic bags. This is something the commission is interested in and had a conversation on whether this could be part of Sustainable CT. They are interested in beginning this program in Woodbury. L. Pittari mentioned the banning of Styrofoam, stating the public is not necessarily on board with the plastic bag movement yet. Styrofoam may be a better place to start. L. Arno stated there is no place

at the dump to recycle plastic bags, the only places in town are LaBonne's and New Morning. The commission thought adding a place to recycle plastic bags at the dump would be a great thing to implement. L. Pittari said there is a program that takes recycled bags and turns them into outdoor furniture/benches. In some instances, they give benches for free. If the town was interested in implementing a recycling program for plastic bags it could result in free benches for our parks. A. Musso talked about adding garbage/recycling bins around town. She has started looking into grants to fund a receptacle program. Research needs to be done on what kind of receptacles would be good to put outside, how many are needed and where they would be placed. D. Schultz mentioned that they need to consider how these bins would be emptied. L. Peters thought it would be a good idea to get the combination receptacles that have bins for garbage and recyclables, but noted they are not cheap. D. Taylor said this is a good topic to talk about on Earth Day. A. Musso had an idea for the Conservation booth to be a collecting site for plastic bags on Earth Day. The committee said this is an excellent idea. D. Taylor thinks combining this with the Sustainability program would be great as it will give Woodbury some points and mentioned there is a meeting next week for the people that are helping with the Sustainable CT program.

CONSERVATION PAGE ON TOWN WEBSITE:

Chairman Taylor noted the newsletter is now on the conservation page and asked if there is any other information that should be added. L. Peters said anything they decide to do for Earth Day should be added to the page, so people know what activities there are, especially if they are going to be a collection site for plastic bags. D. Taylor mentioned having the value of open space on the page would be good as well.

NEWSLETTER:

Member A. Musso handed out a rough draft for the newsletter, asking the other members for some input on what should be added or edited before it's sent out.

MEMBER TIME:

L. Arno talked about Buffer Zones being expanded from fifty feet to one hundred feet, asking if this is still too little. D. Taylor said it probably is. L. Peters said Flanders is doing a climate change presentation on Friday at 7 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

L. Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting. L. Arno seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 am.

Respectfully Submitted,


Caitlin Gerwien, Conservation Commission Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED
IN WOODBURY, CT
This 29th day of Jan 2019
at 12:15 o'clock P M

Town Clerk

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Second block of faint, illegible text in the middle of the page.

Third block of faint, illegible text in the lower middle section.

Fourth block of faint, illegible text near the bottom of the main body.

RECEIVED & FORWARDED
TO WOODBURY CT

OS _____ to you _____ est
AM _____ to _____
_____ staff

