



**TOWN OF WESTBROOK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mulvey Municipal Center
866 Boston Post Rd.
Westbrook, CT 06498
Tel. 399-3046 – FAX 399-2084

**Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada) Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

Marty Marx, Chairman; Sheridan Bauman, Chris Bazinet, Randy Bell, Molly Bernstein and John Rie

Staff Present

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Call to Order

M. Marx called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes- January 19, 2021

MOTION: to approve the January 19, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the January time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for \$125.24. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was received: 1/25/21 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chairman's Report:

M. Marx made his Chairman's report remarks under the agenda items below.

Open Space Projects:

- **Summer Interns**

M. Marx revised the job description for the interns. Jill Brainerd, Town of Westbrook's HR Specialist, suggested advertising in Westbrook Events Magazine. M. Marx will submit the information to them.

M. Bernstein will contact someone she knows who may be interested in interning.

- **Open Space Management Plan for spring/summer 2021**

M. Marx has added to the intern job description. He'd like the intern to do some research about how other towns in the area manage their open space. He'd like to get ideas for a sustainable open space management plan for Westbrook.

M. Bernstein said there's some good information about how Essex's open space is maintained in the Essex Land Trust open space brochure.

There are already great community volunteers in Westbrook. There may be opportunity for them to organize into a volunteer open space management group.

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

The subdivision for 558 Horse Hill Road was approved by the Planning Commission at their 1/27/21 Planning Commission Special Meeting. There is a well-marked area for the conservation restriction area and the right of way.

M. Marx went out to the site with Bill Neale, a Planning Commission member. They located the beginning of the conservation restriction area. They put up about 25 signs marking that area. M. Marx suggested laying out a trail from the road through to the end of the conservation restriction. The trail can be laid out through the right of way. M. Bernstein and R. Bell offered to help M. Marx mark the trail. There's a house where the current residents live. The trail can be laid out further away from their house. They can also look at where to locate the parking lot. R. Bell had an idea to put the parking at the beginning of the entrance, on a firmer piece of land, farther away from the house.

M. Marx suggested hiring a surveyor to help determine the boundaries of the property as it is an oddly shaped lot. R. Bell said Dave Stein who is now retired, surveyed the property that abuts 558 Horse Hill Road. He may be willing to help with the surveying.

M. Marx will ask Bob Doane as well since he was the agent for the subdivision and is very familiar with the layout of the property.

- **Heritage/Open Space Brochure**

S. Bauman said that she has collected an additional \$25.00 in donations at Julie's Cup of Joe for the Heritage/Open Space Brochures.

- **Toby Hill VIII Purchase**

H. Wallace said progress is being made. A second appraisal is being done. The award from the State will be adjusted accordingly.

- **Toby Hill Management Plan**

M. Marx will check back with Jane Brawerman from the CT River Coastal Conservation District about the Toby Hill Management Plan.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space – memorial bench for Bob Peterson**

M. Marx talked with Chris McGovern, a local carpenter in town. He made the 2 benches for the Westbrook Garden Club. He will make the memorial bench in honor of Bob Peterson. He asked about ideas for personalizing the bench. M. Marx suggested an osprey to represent Bob's serving on the Conservation Commission and a tree frog to represent Bob's serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission.

S. Bauman said she thinks it was in the fall of 2019 that the language for the Bob Peterson memorial bench was approved. M. Marx will look for the approved language or draft new language.

- **Salt Island Management Plan**

There is nothing new to report.

Reports: Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Town Center, Preserve Ad Hoc Committee, and Harbor Management Commission

<p>MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 5-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk