



**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, March 16, 2021 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada) Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

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

Chris Bazinet (arrived at 7:39 p.m.)

Staff Present

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Guest

Bill Neale

Call to Order

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

Minutes- February 16, 2021

MOTION: to approve the February 16, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the February time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for \$125.24. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence.

Chairman's Report:

M. Marx submitted an article to Westbrook Events about the Conservation Commission's search for 2 summer interns. A job description was included in the article.

New Business:

Guest Bill Neale from the Planning Commission joined the Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the Plan of Conservation and Development. A subcommittee has been meeting to update the POCD which is required to be updated every 10 years.

A survey was done as part of the POCD update. The survey showed that acquiring Open Space is a goal that many residents support. The town is looking at bonding. There is an Open Space fund which exists. The Planning Commission is recommending that money be added to that fund. No specific amount was suggested.

M. Marx recommended submitting a Capital Request to the Town which would be referred to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen for their approval. He also would like to keep this item on the agenda for upcoming CC meetings.

M. Marx said in the past, a lot of Open Space has been purchased with the Open Space Fund. He said that hopefully, the Town can purchase Toby Hill VIII which will drain the Open Space Fund. Horse Hill Gorge has not yet been open to the public. There's a lot of land included in Toby Hill. M. Marx is concerned about the Conservation Commission's ability to manage the land with just summer interns. It's a large job that is getting to be too much for summer interns alone to handle. The CC is discussing an Open Space Management Plan.

Old Business: Executive Session to discuss Toby Hill VIII

MOTION: to enter Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. inviting Heidi Wallace and Kathy King. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 4-0-0.

MOTION: to exit Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. No decisions were made, and no votes were taken MADE by J. Rie.; SECONDED: by R. Bell; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 4-0-0.

Open Space Projects:

- **Lake Treatment**

There is a contract for lake treatment for Chapman Mill Pond. It is the exact same contract as last year. M. Marx sent it to the Town Attorney for review. The treatment will be done in late May or June and again in August or September for two different types of invasives.

- **Summer Interns**

M. Marx asked Commission members to ask family and friends if they know anyone who would be interested in interning.

S. Bauman sent the summer intern job description to the Westbrook High School guidance department.

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

M. Marx would like to find out how other towns in the area manage their open space.

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

M. Marx said the CC could plan a walk of Horse Hill Gorge. He will send out an email to Commission members to pick a day and time.

- **Heritage/Open Space Brochure**

S. Bauman said she collected \$10.00 from Julie's Cup of Joe for the Heritage Open Space Brochure Maps.

- **Toby Hill VIII Purchase**

Updates were discussed during Executive Session.

- **Toby Hill Management Plan**

M. Marx had nothing new to report. He will follow up with Jane Brawerman at the CT River Coastal Conservation District.

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

M. Marx said the bench is moving along. He does not have a firm date on when it will be delivered.

The Westbrook Garden Club would like to have a date for the Meadow Walk and hopefully to dedicate the memorial bench for Bob Peterson.

- **Salt Island Management Plan**

There was nothing new to report. H. Wallace said she'll go over to Salt Island during the week to do some litter cleanup.

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

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| <p>MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. MADE: by R. Bell; SECONDED: by J. Rie; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None; APPROVED: 4-0-0.</p> |
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk