



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, October 19, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Marty Marx, Chairman; S. Bauman, Chris Bazinet, Randy Bell (joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.) Molly Bernstein and John Rie

Staff Present

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Others Present

Hiram Fuchs and Deb Rie

Call to Order

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

Minutes- September 21, 2021

MOTION: to approve the September 21, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by S. Bauman. **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for a total of \$121.60. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by C. Bazinet; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

MOTION: to approve payment of \$60.00 to CACIWC (CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions) for annual membership. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was received: 9/27/2021 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and the August/September 2021 Inland Wetland Agent's Report.

Chairman's Report –

M. Marx was contacted by the new owner of one of the lots on Horse Hill Gorge to discuss the easement. Steven Ross owns the other lot. Both property owners have concerns about the location of public parking at Horse Hill Gorge. H. Wallace is collecting and will submit easement documents for their review. M. Marx is going to go to the site and walk it with the two property owners. He will invite Bill Neale from the Planning Commission and members of the Conservation Commission are welcome as well.

New Business: - **Hiram Fuchs presentation on the Pollinator Pathway**

M. Marx talked with H. Fuchs about the Pollinator Pathway at the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space Dedication Ceremony, and he invited H. Fuchs to give a presentation to the Conservation Commission.

Randy Bell joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

H. Fuchs said this past spring, he became aware of the crisis of endangered pollinators, and he wanted to make some changes to support pollinators in his yard. He and his wife purchased and planted many native plants. He also has let a large portion of his yard return to meadow. He removed invasive species on his property, got rid of all garden chemicals, replaced his gas-powered lawnmower and weed whacker with an electric lawnmower and weed whacker, and he started shutting the lights off in his yard at night. Since then, he's seen a tremendous increase in the numbers and diverse types of insects and birds.

The Pollinator Pathway started in Seattle. The group who started it connected a "chain" of pollinator friendly plants through front yards and other properties which enable the pollinators to spread to more areas since they don't fly long distances. H. Fuchs said that Westbrook is the only CT town that is not part of the Pollinator Pathway.

D. Rie said some of the people in the Westbrook Garden Club heard about the Pollinator Pathway program, and they wanted to participate. One of the first steps to start a Pollinator Pathway program is to put together a core team of volunteers. D. Rie was hoping for a couple of volunteers from the Conservation Commission. The concept is to link the area towns through Pollinator Pathway "chains." There will be planning meetings to prepare pollinator pathway maps.

The Garden Club will be touring Hiram Fuch's property to see his yard as an example of how the Pollinator Pathway works.

S. Bauman and M. Bernstein both volunteered to be Conservation Commission liaisons for the Pollinator Pathway. H. Wallace is also interested in participating.

S. Bauman is a liaison for The Preserve. There was discussion about connecting part of The Preserve to the Pollinator Pathway. H. Fuchs has a lot of ideas about connecting the Pollinator Pathway to the Town Hall, to the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space and to properties along Route 1.

Open Space Projects:

- **Brush Clearing of Tom ODell Memorial Open Space**

M. Marx will contact Chris Hallahan for an estimate.

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

This was discussed as part of the Chairman's Report.

- **Toby Hill VIII**

H. Wallace said things are progressing. The purchase of Toby Hill VIII will have to go to Town Meeting.

J. Rie reported that Kirtland Landing will be reopened before the end of October. They will be putting in a purchase order for a concrete ramp. There will be an area there that will become an Adopt-A-Spot.

M. Marx said at Chapman Mill Pond, the bridge is in bad shape. There was discussion about who owns the dam. This may come before the Conservation Commission at some point. M. Marx said the Chapman Mill Pond trails are beautiful. The interns did a terrific job maintaining them.

R. Bell talked about funding for Open Space. He will continue to gather more information about funding and finding open space that may be available for purchase.

Old Business: There was no Old Business to discuss.

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

<p><u>MOTION:</u> to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. <u>MADE:</u> by S. Bauman; <u>SECONDED:</u> by R. Bell; <u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u> S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; <u>OPPOSED:</u> None; <u>ABSTAINED:</u> None; <u>APPROVED:</u> 5-0-0.</p>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk