



**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 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - Multi-Media Room and via Zoom
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present:

Chair Randy Bell, Sheridan Bauman, Chris Bazinet, Stephen Bergeron and Molly Bernstein

Staff Present:

Environmental Planner Heidi Wallace, and Recording Clerk Kathy King

Guests:

Eric Clayton
Scot Wilson

Call to Order:

Chairman R. Bell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes:

MOTION: to approve the 1/17/2023 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. MADE: by C. Bazinet; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve payment of \$103.39 to Recording Clerk K. King for January 2023 meeting. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bauman; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 4-0-0.

Correspondence:

Environmental Planner, Heidi Wallace's Report

New Business:

Lake Laconia Treatment Plan

R. Bell and H. Wallace went to the Board of Selectmen meeting with 2 (two) residents from the Lake Laconia Homeowners' Association to talk about the proposed new contractors for the treatment of Lake

Laconia. The BOS chose one of the contractor's they recommended, All Habitat. H. Wallace signed the contract this morning. They will be charging \$10,300.00 for their services. Lake Laconia has milfoil problems and an overgrowth of lily pads. All Habitat uses a new product that is guaranteed to last for 3 (three) years on the milfoil. The previous company used a product that lasted for 1 (one) year on the milfoil. Over the next 3 (three) years, the bill will be smaller, because only the lily pads will have to be treated annually.

Open Space:

- **Scheduling a walk on Toby Hill VII and VIII**

R. Bell would like to schedule a Conservation Commission walk in May or June at Toby Hill VII and VIII to familiarize Commission members with the property. M. Bernstein said she could also show Commission members the Lake Louise connection.

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

H. Wallace reported that this morning she received an email from Steve Ross. He is interested in finding out what the Yellow Book appraisal will be for the 12.8 acres of land that he owns. He may be interested in selling at the Yellow Book appraisal price. H. Wallace said there are some grant deadlines are lapsing, but there is federal grant that may be available. H. Wallace said by July 1, 2023, there should be \$100,000.00 in the Open Space Account that can be used for a match. S. Ross would like to talk with H. Wallace after tonight's CC meeting. R. Bell said he and H. Wallace will have a discussion with him.

Old Business:

- **Pollinator Pathway**

S. Bauman said she created a shared drive online for the CC with the information on pollinator pathways. She said she would like to put more information on the Town Web Site. She said Westbrook High School is now involved. She's planning to send a flyer to the Daisy Ingraham School as well. She'd like to work with the Westbrook Garden Club and send out the flyer around the time of their spring plant sale. She said the Pollinator Pathway website is a fantastic web site, all of the municipalities for the State of CT are listed. When people want to participate, they can click on their town and register their address. They need places to land the pollinator pathways every half mile. The Westbrook link has to be turned live so people can register. There is a list of native plants which are important such as milkweed. Participation is easy. It's not meant only for expert gardeners. S. Bauman would like to have someone from the Westbrook Garden Club work with the CC.

H. Wallace said she'd like to have a pollinator garden planted behind Town Hall. The invasive plants have been removed, and there's just bare ground. S. Bauman will reach out to the Westbrook Garden Club.

R. Bell suggested submitting an article about the pollinator pathways to Westbrook Events Magazine, Facebook and the Town Web Site.

Chairman's Report:

R. Bell said he was reviewing emails, and he came across one from Oliver Snow from Clinton who is looking for an Eagle Scout project. He'd like to make a trail map like the one at Chapman Mill Pond for the other entrance to Chapman Mill Pond. H. Wallace offered to work with him. As part of his Eagle Scout Project, he is supposed to find funding for the project.

M. Bernstein said that CT Trail Finder has a great web site. The site was created by UConn. She said people can use the site to find a place to hike. They type in their zip code, and the site will give them hiking locations. It was suggested by the Westbrook Land Trust that their trails be added to this web site. The Land Trust asked if the CC would like to post their trails to the web site as well. The PDFs of the maps would have to be added to the web site. CC members said they would like to add their maps to the web site so people can find and enjoy the trails. Some of the trails are open to horseback riding. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

Staff Report:

H. Wallace circulated her staff report last week, in advance of the meeting.

She said Westbrook is signed up for Sustainable CT. She is submitting an article to The Harbor News.

R. Bell and H. Wallace attended the BOS meetings for the CC budget.

H. Wallace is looking to find summer interns to do maintenance. M. Bernstein suggested scheduling a volunteer work party to work on the trails.

The CRCCD, CT River Coastal Conservation District, is mapping trails. They are working on the management plan for Toby Hill VII and VIII.

H. Wallace has been working with Ken Butterworth from IT about posting to the Town Facebook page, but there has been difficulty with signing up more than one administrator to the site.

Commission Member Reports:

There were no Commission Member reports.

Adjournment:

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| MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. MADE: by C. Bazinet; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 4-0-0. |
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk