



**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 15, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

Members Present:

Molly Bernstein, Chair; Sheridan Bauman, Molly Bernstein, Marty Marx and John Rie

Members Absent: Chris Bazinet and Randy Bell

Staff Present:

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Call to Order

M. Bernstein called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes- January 18, 2021

MOTION: to approve the January 18, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by M. Marx; **SECONDED:** by S. Bauman. **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, M. Marx 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 \$143.05. **MADE:** by M. Bernstein; **SECONDED:** by M. Marx; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, M. Marx and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Chairman's Report –

- **Budget Actuals for 2022-2023**

M. Bernstein read the budget actuals for 2022-2023.

M. Bernstein announced that the next Conservation Commission meeting on March 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. will be hybrid. People can join via computer or attend in person in the Multi-Media Room.

Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands (FOBI) partnered with the Stuart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. They would like the Conservation Commission to set up a table for the 50th birthday event, which will be on a Saturday in July. M. Bernstein has materials to use for the tables, and she thought it would be a good idea to sell the Heritage Maps there. J. Rie said he talked with Rick Potvin from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He is hoping to reactivate FOBI. Last year, M. Marx said he met with FOBI about patrolling the barrier islands. The summer interns could help with the patrols. FOBI has a boat that they can use.

New Business:

- **Clarify hunting regulations on open space/town property**

H. Wallace said she was approached by First Selectman John Hall about an inquiry from a resident regarding hunting on Town owned property. Current signage states there is no hunting on Town owned property, nor are firearms allowed on any Town owned property. In order to allow hunting, the Town ordinance would have to be changed to allow firearms on Town owned property.

M. Marx said he's not opposed to hunting, but he's concerned about allowing firearms where people are hiking, as well as hunting close to residential properties.

S. Bauman said this has been brought up regarding The Preserve as well. There is discussion about whether or not bow and arrow hunting should be allowed at The Preserve.

J. Rie said it's in the Town Ordinance that firearms are prohibited, so there's nothing to vote on.

- **Prioritize action plan items**

- **Ponzillo Property: construct right of way along river off Breakneck Hill Road to connect greenway to Chapman Mill Pond**

Tabled until R. Bell is present.

- **Seven (7) acres owned by Town off Breakneck Hill Road with rock feature**

Tabled until R. Bell is present.

Open Space Projects:

- **Update Horse Hill Woods trail map kiosks and online**

M. Bernstein said she would like to revise the Horse Hill Woods trail map. Trail four (4) was light blue, and it is now red. That needs to be changed online and on the paper map. H. Wallace said she can make those updates.

- **Toby Hill VIII purchase update**

On February 2, 2022, there was a meeting for the Toby Hill acquisition funding. It passed. In November, when Noel Bishop was First Selectman, he signed most of the paperwork. Now that John Hall is First Selectman, the paperwork has to be resigned. This has to be authorized at a Board of Selectmen meeting as a formality.

Regarding the management plan, H. Wallace has been providing GIS layers. She's been working with Kelly Starr from the CT River Coastal Conservation District. Progress is being made. M. Marx said as part of the funding, they need to create an official management plan for Toby Hill with the CRCCD.

- **Update Town web site page for CC**

M. Bernstein said she'd like the web page to be updated. Outdated items need to be removed. H. Wallace said Ken Butterworth from IT can work on the updates.

- **Westbrook Garden Club – Pollinator Project Meetings**

The most recent email with the Westbrook Garden Club was on January 17, 2022. M. Bernstein asked J. Rie if his wife Deb Rie has any updates. J. Rie said he and his wife are not going to be in state for March or April, and he suggested that M. Bernstein email D. Rie directly. Peter Gillespie, the new Town Planner, is very interested in the pollinator pathways as is Hiram Fuchs, Town Selectman.

Old Business:

Heritage Map updates

M. Bernstein asked if more copies of the Heritage Map need to be printed for the kiosks or for other locations selling them such as Julie's Cup of Joe. S. Bauman will check back with the owner of Julie's Cup of Joe to see if she would like more copies. She will also check the supply at the Town Hall. The maps were being sold for \$5.00 each.

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

<p><u>MOTION:</u> to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. <u>MADE:</u> by M. Marx; <u>SECONDED:</u> by S. Bauman; <u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u> M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, M. Marx and J. Rie; <u>OPPOSED:</u> None; <u>ABSTAINED:</u> None; <u>APPROVED:</u> 4-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk