



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

**Members Present:**

Chair Randy Bell, Stephen Bergeron and Molly Bernstein

**Members Absent:**

Sheridan Bauman and Chris Bazinet

**Staff Present:**

Environmental Planner Heidi Wallace, and Recording Clerk Kathy King

**Call to Order:**

Chairman R. Bell called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Minutes:**

MOTION: to approve the 2/21/2023 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

**Bills:**

MOTION: to approve payment of \$118.16 to Recording Clerk K. King for February 2023 meeting. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

MOTION: to approve payment of \$1,425.00 to All Habitat Services, LLC. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

MOTION: to approve payment of \$126.17 to Ocean State Job Lot for items for the summer interns to use. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

## Correspondence:

Conservation Commission Updates for March/April 2023 from Heidi Wallace, Environmental Planner  
Corrected Minutes of the Regular IWWC Meeting via ZOOM and IN PERSON January 3, 2023  
Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Corrected Minutes January 23, 2023  
Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes February 27, 2023

## New Business:

### **Breakneck Hill Parking Lot**

R. Bell drove by the Breakneck Hill Parking Lot several times. He didn't see any trash, there were still plenty of maps available, and he didn't see anyone. There have been problems with rowdy teenagers' spray-painting things on trees and throwing trash. Previously, when the same thing was happening at Chapman Mill Pond, the police began to lock the gate at night and unlock it in the morning. It would be nice to have a police presence at Breakneck Hill Parking Lot as well. H. Wallace was contacted by one of the constables about gatherings at the Chapman Mill Pond entrance on State property off Chapman Mill Pond Road. R. Bell said he is hopeful that once the warmer weather comes, more hikers may be there which may deter the teens from having parties there. M. Bernstein suggested that the interns may be able to do some monitoring. S. Bergeron said he can make a habit of stopping by occasionally. H. Wallace will do the same.

## Open Space:

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

H. Wallace reported that the Board of Selectmen is willing to pay the cost for the Yellow Book Appraisal for this property. There's not a safe place to park along Horse Hill Road to access Horse Hill Gorge, so the Town would like to purchase the property. R. Bell appreciates that the BOS is moving this along. H. Wallace said she will contact the appraiser Stephen Flanagan tomorrow. There's a lot of research that needs to be done for the appraisal. It will take some time.

MOTION: to notify the Board of the Selectmen that the Conservation Commission is very much in support of paying the appraiser/surveyor to appraise/survey the property at Horse Hill Gorge. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.
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On 3/22/23, H. Wallace is having a phone meeting with Min Huang from CT DEEP. M. Huang puts together "umbrella grants", grants for multiple towns for multiple properties.

## Old Business:

- **Pollinator Pathway**

S. Bauman was not able to attend tonight's meeting. She submitted her updates on the pollinator pathways in advance.

"Westbrook Button is live on the Pollinator Pathway site. Heard back from contact at the Y and will be working on helping them get pollinating plants with their community garden. Going to have my track team do the planters at our school and also get pollinating plants going at our parking lot at the Preserve. I mistyped email address to Debra Rie that Heidi had shared with me and just figured that out. I will get

that sorted and reach out again the right way after practice. The Garden Club pre-sale starts 4/3-23rd. Pick up at the Town Hall 5/13.”

H. Wallace can put the information about the pollinator pathways on the Westbrook Conservation Commission Facebook page and the Town web site.

**Chairman’s Report:**

R. Bell said they have not received any responses yet regarding summer interns. H. Wallace said it’s still a little early. She will reach out to the interns from last summer to see if they are still interested. H. Wallace has already reached out to a number of other people in town to get the word out about the internship opportunity. M Bernstein knows of someone who may be interested.

H. Wallace will reach out to the Eagle Scout candidate who inquired about the kiosk for his Eagle Scout project.

R. Bell has a neighbor who may be interested in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission.

**Staff Report:**

H. Wallace circulated her staff report via email in advance of the meeting.

A resident from Economy Drive contacted H. Wallace about helping out with getting rid of invasive plants at Tom ODeil Memorial Open Space. The CC discussed setting up dates for invasive plant working groups through Facebook.

R. Bell would like to set up a date for the CC to walk Toby Hill VIII.

M. Bernstein talked about CT Trails Day which will be on the weekend of June 3 and June 4, 2023. M. Bernstein offered to lead the group hike which will be either June 3 or June 4.

**Commission Member Reports:**

There were no Commission Member reports.

**Adjournment:**

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. MADE: by S. Bergeron; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk