



COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES (CUPOP)

Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm - Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Town Hall - Selectman's Meeting Room

Present: CUPOP Members: Lor Ferrante Fernandes - Chair & Ad Hoc Sustainability,
Patti McKeon - Secretary, Leslie Lyons, Nicole Donzello and Marty Halprin - Co-Chair (arrived at 7 pm)

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Minutes:** December 16, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.
Leslie Lyons motioned; Patti McKeon seconded. All in favor.
4. **Workshop Meeting Status - Ticks:** For the workshop, it was noted that Kirby Stafford from the State Agricultural Station was contacted and he is available to conduct a tick presentation on Monday, March 23. It was agreed to move forward with the workshop.
Nicole Donzello motioned; Patti McKeon seconded. All in favor.
The importance of promoting tick awareness was discussed and Chair Fernandes plans to invite Bettina Thiel, Woodbridge Town News Correspondent, to the event.
5. **Japanese Barberry Update:** Nicole Donzello distributed an ordinance that she drafted based upon her research of similar invasive plant statutes. Included with the draft was a history on the Japanese Barberry found in a 2011 UCONN study. Discussion ensued.
6. **Dog Park Update:** Nicole Donzello reported the dog park has been well attended and that the grand opening is scheduled for June. Discussion took place relating to items that the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative are working through as well as public use feedback.
7. **Blight Ordinance:** Chair Fernandes noted that the Board of Selectmen voted to amend the existing Blight Ordinance to address grass and weeds on property. It was noted that rubbish and deteriorated equipment are part of the ordinance as well.

8. **Invasive Species Update:** Patti McKeon reported that she reached out to the three local Boy Scout troops to determine interest in identifying and cataloging invasive plants. Discussion took place on how best to narrow the scope of the project to a manageable plan. It was discussed that the Japanese Barberry should be the focus during the initial phase of this project because of its direct relationship to increased tick population. A general plan was discussed:
 - Identify and catalog Japanese Barberry on Woodbridge publicly owned properties
 - Determine magnitude of this invasive plant per property
 - Identify feasible methods to eradicate Japanese Barberry on publicly owned properties
 - Educate homeowners through a variety of mediums

9. **CUPOP Chairman Report & New Business:** Chair Fernandes reported:
 - The Board of Selectmen continue to work toward setting a Referendum Date for the development of the former Country Club of Woodbridge property.
 - The Board of Selectmen voted to use of the second floor of the Old Fire House as a place of public assembly and to continue to negotiate the day time use for the Amity Regional School District Transition Program.
 - Sustainable Woodbridge Day is scheduled for May 2, 9 am - 1 pm. A variety of activities are planned to take place on the Woodbridge Town Green. Having a CUPOP table at the event was discussed.

10. **Other Business:** It was noted that the Woodbridge Recreation Department opened its outdoor ice skating rink for public use. Its current location is the public tennis courts on Center Road.

11. **CUPOP's Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 18 in Town Hall at 6:30 pm. It was noted that there will be a location change from the Central Meeting Room to the Selectman's Meeting Room. Highlights for the February agenda were noted:
 - Invasive Plant Project: type plan (Chair Fernandes); report on Boy Scout interest (Patti McKeon)
 - Tick Workshop: finalize details (Marty Halprin)
 - Sustainable Woodbridge Day: educational table planning (Leslie Lyons)

12. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.
Marty Halprin motioned; Leslie Lyons seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*