Meeting called to order at 7:31pm.

In attendance - Chair - Tim Austin, Vice Chair Sharon de Kadt, Paul Harrigan, Valerie King, Diana Smith-Bercury, Barbara Smith Hagan, Kate Rozen

Board of Selectman - David Lober

Guests: Chris Dickerson, Chris Keevil, Bryan Pines, and Stephanie Ciarleglio.

1. Presentation by Stephanie Ciarleglio:

1) Sub-Committee Guidance

Stephanie Ciarleglio addressed the commission and reiterated the importance of following FOIA laws. All agendas, motions, and minutes are to be filed with the Town Clerk. All meeting minutes must be filed within seven (7) days. Motions need to be filed within forty eight (48) hours. Chair Tim Austin asked for guidelines on forming a subcommittee. The board needs to follow all the same rules as a regular committee. Subcommittees should have an end date and a charge. They would meet and report at any meeting.

2) West River Watershed Coalition / Merritt Ave Development

Stephanie Ciarleglio shared information about the West River Watershed. The West River is approximately 25 miles in length and 75k people live in the watershed. The organization is made up of many partner organizations. There are 9 walks scheduled for 2022. Woodbridge works together with other towns. They received a grant to take out the pond lily dam. Woodbridge
makes up about a third of the total watershed. The West River watershed is designated as a greenway.

Stephanie shared images of flooding in the Litchfield Turnpike area.

2. Presentation by WPA & WLT of their proposal for preservation of the former CCW property

Bryan Pines greeted the group. Chris Keevil presented the joint proposal from the Woodbridge Land Trust and Woodbridge Park Association. These two groups submitted an offer to put the land under conservation easement. The property would be available for a variety of purposes and could be written into the easement. The land would still be open to passive recreation. Chair Tim Austin thanked the members from the two organizations for coming and presenting.

3. Public Comment (via email) - there were no public comments submitted.

4. Approval of Minutes 02-17-2022 (5) A motion to approve the minutes of 2/17/22 Paul Harrigan makes the motion, Sharon deKadt seconded. David Lober had a correction to the amount of the money we are receiving from 10 million to 2.7 million. Barbara - yes, Sharon - yes, Paul - yes, Kate - yes Diana - yes, Val yes, Tim - abstained. The motion passed.

5. Chair Comments - Chair Tim Austin shared that in watching the meeting he missed last month he felt pride in the Commission. He thanked the group for their work and service. Tim noted that the draft agenda is sent out on Mondays and the agenda is filed after comment from the committee.

6. C.G.S. S7-131a Conservation Commission “Shall & Mays” - Chair Tim had pulled out the responsibilities of the commission. Tim noted that there is a shall that we should keep an inventory of open space.

7. Liaison Report - Board of Selectman Liaison David Lober presented his report. There will be a preliminary budget hearing on 4/18 with public comments. Woodbridge joined the pollinator pathway which was a 4H club. Eversource will be coming to cut down trees around power lines.
8. **WPA/WLT CCW proposal discussion** - The Committee discussed the proposal. There is no action required from the WCC at this time.

9. **Merritt Avenue Open Space opportunity - Update** Chair Tim Austin attended the inlands wetland committee meeting. The hydrology report has not come in yet. Tim would like to invite John Paul Garcia to a future meeting to discuss possibilities for open space.

10. **Preserving Trees during Development Next Steps** - Tim made a motion to create a *Tree Clearcutting* sub-committee of the WCC composed of 3 people to develop recommendations on this topic and return them to the full WCC for review and possible adoption to forward to the BOS. The sub-committee will sunset upon adoption of a motion to send a recommendation on Tree Clear-cutting to the BOS; or failure to send the matter back to sub-committee; or by dissolution by the WCC. Sharon de Kadt seconded. Roll call vote: Barbara - Yes, Diana - left, Kate-Yes, Paul - yes, Sharon - yes, Val yes, Tim yes. The Motion passed.

11. **Trail Challenge Update / Next Steps** - Kate suggested that we hold off on the trail challenge and allow other committees to begin to be set up.

12. **Available Open Space Grants** – Next steps- Chair Tim suggested we gather all of our grant information in one place. Tabled until the next meeting.

13. **Greenway Extensions - Special Meeting?** Barbara requested that we have a special meeting in person and invite Amy. Barbara makes a motion to hold a special meeting as soon as possible and in person and Paul Harrigan seconded. Roll call vote: Barbara - Yes, Diana - left, Kate- Yes, Paul - yes, Sharon - yes, Val yes, tim yes. The Motion passed.

14. **Member Comments/Items for April 21st, 2022 meeting** - Valerie volunteered to bring forward open parcels to the meeting. Tim will invite Amy.
Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon de Kadt and Paul Harrigan seconded. The Motion passed.

Materials for this meeting may be viewed at: https://www.woodbridgetct.org/294/Conservation-Commission

CC to Woodbridge Town Clerk: townclerk@woodbridgetct.org