

Woodbridge Conservation Commission Special Meeting
July 16, 2020
(This was a virtual meeting)

In attendance; Jason Morrill, Sharon de Kadt, Frank Deleo, Kate Rozen (a new member), Leland Torrance on audio only.

1. No public comment was submitted by the deadline of 3 PM today for this virtual meeting.
2. Update on members:
 - a. Susan Dieterlen has resigned from the Woodbridge Conservation Commission.
 - b. Kate Rozen has joined as a new member. She has lived Woodbridge for a number of years and is an avid cyclist.
 - c. We are presently looking for other one other new member.
3. The Woodbridge Conservation Commission minutes from the previous meeting of January 16, 2020 were reviewed. The gap between that meeting and this meeting was due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Jason Morrill made a motion to approve. Sharon de Kadt seconded. The vote was unanimous.
4. We discussed the Town of Woodbridge Plan of Conservation and Development with specific attention to the open space section. We reviewed action steps, including near term and mid-term actions.
5. We went on to discuss the land on the lower west side of West Rock. We discussed the various properties there, and the possibility that there could be continuously protected land running from the Darling House to Konolds Pond and West Rock, with possible walking trails. Right now, Mr. Nugent has a 28-acre piece that disrupts this continuity. We further discussed the Indian trails behind Wells Fargo Bank, and the possibility of creating a path from West Rock through Bradley Road over to that region.
6. We discussed prioritizing where to focus our attention as a conservation commission.
 - a. We agreed that the extensive work that has been done to the open space plan should be finalized. This would involve prioritizing pieces of land to be conserved. A point system for this prioritization is in the final stages of development.
 - b. We also are cognizant at the same time that we need to be aware of any land of interest that comes up for sale and needs more immediate consideration.
 - c. The Fitzgerald Property at the center of Woodbridge could use a conservation restriction as it is a centrally important piece of land for the character of the town, and for passive recreation.
7. The property at 17 Woodbine Lane has been farmland since the 1700s and the owner may be in the process of considering it for subdivision. Leland Torrance, who is an abutter to the property, has spoken to the Woodbridge Land Trust and other Woodbridge town members about the property and its possible conservation. He thinks that it's an important

piece of land to conserve. It has been of interest to the Woodbridge Conservation Commission in the past. According to Leland Torrance, the Woodbridge Town Planning and Zoning Commission has designated this property as one of the top five parcels to protect. It is a varied piece of land including farmland and wetlands.

We understand that the Woodbridge Land Trust and the Town of Woodbridge has already been investigating possibilities of how to protect this land and the Woodbridge Conservation Commission would like to evaluate it and give our opinion to the town at the appropriate time.

8. Leland Torrance identified a discrepancy between the 2005 and the 2015 Woodbridge Town Plan of Conservation and Development in land designations that he will investigate further.
9. Chairman's Report
 - a. Louisa Cunningham died earlier this month. She was very active in conserving land in Woodbridge, and as a Board member with Massaro Farm. She was an avid birder and an advocate for open space. She will be missed and remembered.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM. Sharon de Kadt made the motion and Jason Morrill seconded. Agreement was unanimous.