Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

In attendance: Jason Morrill, Leland Torrence (arrived at 7:40), Frank DeLeo, Traci Cipriano, and Sharon de Kadt.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Jason Morrill.

2. There was no public comment.

3. Approval of minutes
   The July 18, 2019 minutes were approved. Jason Morrill made a motion to approve the minutes. Frank DeLeo seconded. Mr. Torrence was not yet in attendance when the minutes were approved (Mr. Torrence arrived at 7:40). Jason Morrill and Frank DeLeo, Sharon de Kadt and Traci Cipriano voted in favor; the motion passed.

4. CUPOP Liaison
   Previously Lauryn Miller was the CUPOP liaison for the Conservation Commission. She’s no longer part of the Conservation Commission and a new CUPOP liaison was needed. Traci Cipriano agreed to go to the CUPOP meetings and be the liaison. The CUPOP meeting occurs every third Monday at 6:30. Frank DeLeo motioned to approve Traci Cipriano as the CUPOP liaison, Sharon de Kadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Review of commission purpose and duties
   A. Jason Morrill discussed the purposes of the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commissions, in 2018, was directed by the Board of Selectmen to be the body within town to concern itself with farmland preservation.
   B. The Conservation Commission is going to speak to Betsy Yagla about adding additional information to the Conservation Commission’s part of the town website outlining the commissions purpose and duties.

6. Low impact development
   There was a discussion initiated by Frank DeLeo about low impact development and that it may be something that the Conservation Commission could learn about. We could then contribute information to the TPZ and Inland Wetlands Commission to help stimulate more ecologically-minded development in our town. On a state website different towns are rated in terms of their utilization of low impact development. Woodbridge has 4/16 rating, while other towns such as Bethany, Hamden, and New Haven all have a higher ratings.
7. Open Space Plan
A discussion was held about the 2019 Open Space Draft. Conservation Commission members agreed that a working meeting would be most helpful, where we chose a few specific sections of the drafted document and work intensively on those sections. A meeting is scheduled on October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at a place yet to be announced.
Jason Morrill is going to ask Kristina Sullivan from the Town Planning and Zoning office to possibly join us and add insight into the some of the questions concerning zoning.

8. Discussion of town trails and maintenance
There’s a coordinated effort between the Alice Newton Memorial Park, the Conservation Commission (Town) and the Woodbridge Land Trust to figure out a better maintenance schedule, more coordinated trail blazes, etc.
Andy Danzig has just been named the new trail master after Mike Walter’s retirement. Andy Danzig’s role will be the management and coordination of the Woodbridge trail system.

9. Woodbridge Trail Day
Woodbridge Trail day is scheduled for October 19. There will be two hikes. One will be at 9:00 a.m., a 5-mile hike from the town center through Fitzgerald Property all the way to Park Lane and Crumb Elbow. There will be a second hike at 9:30 a.m. which will be shorter, involving walking in Alice Newton Memorial Park and in the Fitzgerald Property. Then from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there will be crafts, art, music, and food trucks at the town center. Also, on Friday October 18 there will be two haunted trail walks at Massaro Farm. A more kid-friendly one will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., the more scary one from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.
The Conservation Commission is also considering another November walk at West Rock with a well-known geologist, Mr. Ague.

10. Chairman’s Report
A. There is a Freedom of Information talk at the Town Hall, on Wednesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. This information will be important for any commission member to understand so as to not violate Freedom of Information rules.
B. There is an all-day CACIWC meeting on Saturday, November 23 in Cromwell, Connecticut for any Inland Wetlands members or Conservation Commission members.
C. The board of selectmen has voted to further the investigation of the Woodbridge Country Club property. They are proposing to have Insight Development present to various Woodbridge Town boards and commissions. There will be a meeting scheduled for the Conservation Commission within the next month or two for that purpose. The proposal involves 120 units for over-55 housing.
D. Documents
Jason Morrill has scanned and put the Conservation Commission documents from Mike Walter on a Google drive for any Conservation Commission members to more easily access the archives. These documents include some from the early days in the 1960s and 70s but are mostly from 2000 to 2007.
E. Yale Land
Leland Torrence mentioned that he thought that Yale owns two small portions of land in Woodbridge, and Yale has recently sold some land in Bethany. If Yale has any intention of selling its Woodbridge land, maybe the Conservation Commission could look into it and see if it is land that the Conservation Commission could be interested in acquiring.

13. Adjourn
Frank DeLeo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jason Morrill seconded. At 8:25 p.m. the meeting adjourned.