



**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, July 21, 2020 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada) Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

Marty Marx, Chairman; Sheridan Bauman, Randy Bell, Molly Bernstein, and John Rie

Members Absent

Chris Bazinet, Mike Oryl and Morgan Allen, non-voting member

Staff Present

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Call to Order

M. Marx called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes- June 16, 2020

MOTION: to approve the June 16, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the June time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for \$144.54. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was received: 6/2/2020 Inland Wetlands Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and Inland Wetlands Agent report for June.

Chairman's Report: Review 2020-2021 budget

The Conservation Commission budget was approved. The budget for the interns was increased. Their time has been extended for 2 weeks. M. Marx reviewed what each line item will pay for.

Key Projects for 2020-2011:

- Tom ODell Open Space signage

C. Bazinet has been working on the signage. The next step is to have the sign made. J. Rie and M. Marx met with the Westbrook Garden Club. They found a place for the sign.

- Tom ODell Open Space bench for Bob Peterson

They decided to place the bench up on the top of the hill. They may need to put a concrete slab under it. M. Marx will talk with Director of Public Works John Riggio about the concrete slab, and M. Marx will start looking at benches to purchase.

- Toby Hill VIII purchase

H. Wallace is working on a grant. The Westbrook Land Trust will be matching donations for the Toby Hill VIII purchase. The CC is hopeful there will be enough money to purchase the land. They won't know until early next year.

- Toby Hill Management Plan

The management plan discussion will be tabled until it is determined whether or not the purchase can be made.

R. Bell would like to move forward with parking for the Horse Hill Gorge property. M. Marx said they could talk about putting in budget money next year for a parking area.

Open Space Projects:

- **Heritage/Open Space Brochure: update and next steps**

M. Bernstein did a fantastic job updating the Heritage/Open Space Brochure. M. Bernstein said Darlene Briggs gave her a quote for printing 400 copies for \$1,200.00. The brochure will also be put up on the town web site. M. Marx asked M. Bernstein to get a couple of more printing estimates and submit a firm price quote, and he said the Conservation Commission can vote to approve payment at their August 18 meeting.

- **Toby Hill VIII purchase**

This was discussed above under Key Projects 2020-2021.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space signage update**

This was discussed above under Key Projects 2020-2011.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space plans**

This was discussed under Key Projects 2020-2021.

M. Marx.

New Business:

J. Rie talked about problems with people interfering with bird nesting season on Salt Island. He would like the Conservation Commission to create a management plan for Salt Island. This will give the Harbormaster and the police guidance as to how to patrol it during bird nesting season. M. Marx will talk with Rick Potvin from USFWL about working with the CC on the management plan.

There is no problem with Menunketesuck Island because there is lots of signage, so people stay away.

If Westbrook develops a management plan for Salt Island, they can share this with CT DEEP who manage Duck Island.

J. Rie said the Harbormaster has seen people diving from the rocks on Salt Island, and he's concerned about their safety because it's dangerous.

H. Wallace said a lot of phragmites are coming in by the water behind Town Hall. They're invasive, and they're taking over. She suggested consulting with a professional about applying some kind of herbicide. J. Rie said he thinks CT DEEP should be involved. H. Wallace said she will contact CT DEEP.

S. Bauman said she would like to talk more about bicycle trail design in The Preserve. She said if the town purchases Toby Hill VIII, that would be a great location for the bicycles because there are a lot of wide trails.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

Reports: Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Town Center, Preserve Ad Hoc Committee, and Harbor Management Commission

<p><u>MOTION:</u> to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. <u>MADE:</u> by J. Rie; <u>SECONDED:</u> by R. Bell; <u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u> S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; <u>OPPOSED:</u> None; <u>ABSTAINED:</u> None; <u>APPROVED:</u> 4-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk