



**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, August 18, 2020 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada) Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

Marty Marx, Chairman; Sheridan Bauman (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Chris Bazinet, Randy Bell, Molly Bernstein, and John Rie

Members Absent

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- July 21, 2020

MOTION: to approve the July 21, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the July time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for \$105.12. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence.

Chairman's Report:

The interns have been visiting Salt Island for the last month. They weren't able to coordinate anything with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. One of the interns, Sam, is going back to school soon. Gus is still working. He's been doing some weed whacking at Chapman Mill. Tropical Storm Isaias caused a lot of damage to the trails. Sam and Gus identified the limbs that are down. M. Marx went with them. They cleaned up all of Chapman Mill Pond as well as the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space. There's still a lot of work to be done to clean up the trails.

J. Rie said Rick Potvin is planning to revive the FOBI (Friends of Westbrook Barrier Islands) next year.

There is an experimental sewage system being installed in Westbrook at Ted Lane Field. If this is successful, it will provide an alternative to a sewer system, and it will allow more opportunities for businesses on the Town Green.

There were a lot of fireworks on Duck Island over the 4th of July weekend. J. Rie said it won't happen again because in the future, there will be more of a police presence and the Harbor Master will be out there as well.

M. Marx said there will be a timber harvest off of Route 145. The CT DEEP informed the Town. They will be sending letters out to neighbors. M. Marx will forward the information he received to Commission members.

The next Westbrook Events is due on 8/27/20. M. Marx suggested that an article be submitted about the updated Heritage/Open Space Brochure map. He will provide a link to the brochure.

M. Marx asked for suggestions for projects for eagle scouts. M. Bernstein suggested more bridges as well as a raised walkway in Horse Hill Woods. H. Wallace suggested a big kiosk at Breakneck Hill for maps.

There is a lot of quad traffic on Horse Hill Woods. M. Marx would like to extend the fence on HHW or use boulders to prevent disturbance.

S. Bauman shared a nice map that she purchased on Block Island which is similar in design to the Westbrook Heritage/Open Space Brochure. She said the BI maps are sold, and the money goes towards conservation projects. She suggested that the Westbrook Heritage/Open Space Brochure maps could possibly be sold with the profit going towards CC projects.

Open Space Projects:

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

M. Marx suggested committing to a certain number of maps to be printed. M. Bernstein presented different quotes. Commission members decided to go with Technique Printers. The quotes are for 300 copies for \$1,100.00 or 500 copies for \$1,250.00. The CC will order 500 copies. Once they're ordered, the CC can decide if they'd like to sell them. The proceeds can go into the fund in Tom ODell's memory.

- **Toby Hill VIII purchase**

H. Wallace reported that she's looking into more grants for the Toby Hill VIII purchase. It will be a topic at the Board of Selectmen's meeting next week. M. Marx will plan to attend that meeting.

- **Toby Hill Management Plan – table until winter**
- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space signage update**

C. Bazinet received updated sign designs from Tucker Reynolds from Lighthouse Printing. Once the updates are approved by Commission members, the 2 signs can be produced. M. Marx and C. Bazinet can pick up the signs and deliver them to the Department of Public Works for installation. M. Marx talked with Deb Rie from the Westbrook Garden Club about location of the sign placement.

MOTION: to approve the sign design for the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space made by Lighthouse Signs with the change from “acquisitions” to “acquisition”. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

The kiosk needs to be updated from “Salt Island Overlook” to “Tom ODell Memorial Open Space.”

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space – memorial bench for Bob Peterson**

There is nothing new to report.

- **Horse Hill Gorge Parking Area**

R. Bell said he spoke to a gentleman named Daniel who lives adjacent to Horse Hill Gorge. Daniel said he would prefer not to have parking there, but he understands that the open space is for the public to enjoy. There was discussion about putting parking access off of Kenrose Terrace. M. Marx suggested putting up fencing to keep people from trespassing on Daniel’s property, so people could park and not adversely impact his privacy.

M. Marx asked H. Wallace to go into the CC filing cabinet at the Westbrook Town Hall. He said he thinks there’s a parking plan for HHG. There may also be information about access from Kenrose Terrace.

R. Bell said there’s a lot nearby with 77 acres, but it has a lot of wetlands on it. Maybe in the future, the property owner would be willing to sell some of the property for parking.

New Business:

Old Business:

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

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2020. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein, C. Bazinet and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk