



**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 20, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center
866 Boston Post Road, South Conference Room**

Members Present

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

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- May 18, 2021

MOTION: to approve the May 18, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by C. Bazinet. **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, M. Bernstein and J. Rie. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the May and June time sheets from Recording Clerk Kathy King for a total of \$166.98. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell and M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

MOTION: to approve \$60.75 for materials to flag the trails and Roundup for the parking area. **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.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence was received: 4/26/21, 5/24/21 and 6/28/21 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes, Inland Wetland Agent's Report for May 2019, April 2021 and for May/June 2021, 4/6/21, 5/4/21 Inland Wetlands Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and 5/12/21 Inland Wetlands Commission Special Meeting Minutes.

Chairman's Report:

M. Marx had a meeting with members of the Friends of McKinney Wildlife Refuge including Shaun Roche from the US Fish and Wildlife Services. One of the members of the Friends of the Barrier Islands was there as well. They discussed a rafting party on August 7, 2021 at Duck Island. M. Marx contacted First Selectman Noel Bishop about setting up patrols for Duck Island. All proceeds of the party will be going to the Friends of McKinney Wildlife Refuge. Evan Cusson is running the raft party. He is a member of the Harbor Management Commission, and he is well aware of the precautions necessary to protect the nesting birds.

Open Space Projects:

- **Lake Treatment**

The language was changed in the agreement for Lake Treatment. The Town Attorney is reviewing it. H. Wallace will check on the status of the agreement.

- **Summer Interns**

The interns are doing a lot of work at the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space. There are a lot of weeds and invasives there, so they have to do a lot of weeding. They are redoing the trail markings in Horse Hill Woods. They have started visiting Horse Hill Gorge. Once the trails are flagged, the interns will contact H. Wallace and M. Bernstein to make sure the trails are marked property.

The interns need a lawn mower. J. Rie said he may be able to donate one.

The interns are doing a lot of work helping the Westbrook Garden Club. The Garden Club is very appreciative.

- **Open Space Management Plan for spring/summer 2021**

The interns are working on the Open Space Management Plan. M. Marx has asked them to create a power point statement. He will send out the link to CC members. They are going to present an approach for solving and implementing the Plan.

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

M. Marx contacted Steve Ross about the parking area for Horse Hill Gorge. M. Marx would like to move forward on the parking area for Horse Hill Gorge and the trail to the Open Space.

Once the trail is marked, H. Wallace can create a map with the GIS. She will request assistance from the Regional Planning Agency.

- **Heritage/Open Space Brochure**

S. Bauman has received \$45.00 from sales of the Open Space Brochure at Julie's Cup of Joe.

- **Toby Hill VIII Purchase**

H. Wallace reported that they are still receiving donations towards the purchase of Toby Hill VIII. They have submitted an application for another grant.

- **Toby Hill Management Plan**

The Toby Hill Management Plan is on hold until Toby Hill VIII has been purchased.

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

The bench has been delivered to the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space. R. Bell installed the plaque on the bench in memory of Bob Peterson.

M. Marx has contacted B. Peterson’s family about having a small ceremony to dedicate the memorial bench. He will report back to the CC with details.

- **Salt Island Management Plan**

M. Marx had nothing new to report.

- **Open Space Management Fund – request for capital funding for the acquisition of open space**

The purpose of the Open Space Management Fund is to purchase Town owned Open Space. Open Space could be purchased with money from the Open Space Management Fund and a matching grant from the State. H. Wallace will get information for the CC about how capital funding works.

R. Bell said protecting the aquifer is one of the charges of the Conservation Commission. Purchasing open space in the area of the aquifer would help to accomplish that. R. Bell offered to do some research on the economic benefits of purchasing open space and suggestions for the parcels the Town would want to consider. Then, he can talk with Eric Knapp, the Land Use Coordinator, and the Board of Selectmen, and report back to the Conservation Commission.

Old Business: There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business: R. Bell suggested applying something other than Roundup to the weeds in the parking lot of Horse Hill Gorge. He is going to email M. Marx directions for the solution that he makes to kill weeds.

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

<p><u>MOTION:</u> to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. <u>MADE:</u> by S. Bauman; <u>SECONDED:</u> by M. Bernstein; <u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u> S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; <u>OPPOSED:</u> None; <u>ABSTAINED:</u> None; <u>APPROVED:</u> 5-0-0.</p>
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk