



**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, April 18, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Mulvey Municipal Center - Multi-Media Room and via Zoom
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present:

Chair Randy Bell, Chris Bazinet, Stephen Bergeron and Molly Bernstein

Members Absent:

Sheridan Bauman

Staff Present:

Environmental Planner Heidi Wallace, and Recording Clerk Kathy King

Call to Order:

Chairman R. Bell called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes:

MOTION: to approve the 3/21/2023 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. MADE: by M. Bernstein; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve payment of \$103.39 to Recording Clerk K. King for March 2023 meeting. MADE: by C. Bazinet; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

Correspondence:

- Conservation Commission Updates for March/April 2023 from Heidi Wallace, Environmental Planner
- 3/7/2023 Minutes of the Regular Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission Meeting
- Aquarion Water Company – Environmental Champion Awards application materials

New Business:

Breakneck Hill Parking Lot

H. Wallace reported she hasn't seen much activity at the Breakneck Hill Parking Lot. Among the other trash she did see a marijuana vaping cartridge box in the parking lot. At some point, R. Bell suggested the CC may want to consider installing gates like they have at Chapman Mill Pond.

Open Space:

- **Horse Hill Gorge**

H. Wallace submitted requested materials to Min Huang at CT DEEP. It's possible Westbrook may not have to put up money for Horse Hill Gorge because they have a credit from the money they put up towards Toby Hill VIII.

Horse Hill Gorge is located in the Menunketesuck/Cockaponset Greenway which goes all the way to Chester. Min Huang needs to submit the grant in July. The money wouldn't be available until the spring of 2024.

There is no news from the appraiser who is still doing research. The cost per acre for Horse Hill Gorge will likely be higher than Toby Hill VIII. When they get the number from the appraiser, they will meet with Mr. Steve Ross, then the BOS, the BOF, and then to a Town Meeting if the Town wants to move forward with the purchase of the property.

Old Business:

- **Pollinator Pathway**

S. Bauman was not present at tonight's meeting to give a report.

The time is coming for "No Mow May" when people don't mow their lawns for the month of May. It's an opportunity for pollinator pathway awareness and to encourage the emergence of bees and other pollinators. Allowing the lawn to grow for a month gives the little native wildflowers a chance to grow.

H. Wallace will put an article about No Mow May on the Conservation Commission Facebook Page and the Town Website.

H. Wallace will putting put up a display with free Pollinator seeds in the Mulvey lobby for Earth Day.

Chairman's Report:

R. Bell would like to schedule a Conservation Commission site walk of all of the Toby Hill properties. M. Bernstein that the Westbrook Land Conservation Trust will need a surveyor to locate a couple of missing pins.

Staff Report:

H. Wallace circulated her staff report via email in advance of the meeting.

CT Trails Day will be on the weekend of June 3 and June 4, 2023.

H. Wallace said they now have a couple of summer interns. One is a school teacher, Justin Heilmann, who is interested a summer job. One of the interns, Zach Zanzalari, from last summer is coming back, but with shorter hours. H. Wallace would like to bring on a third intern.

H. Wallace is going to get in touch with the Eagle Scout Candidate about his project.

H. Wallace reported that the Conservation Commission has been awarded funding from the Westbrook Foundation to replace the Mulvey Riverfront signs.

M. Bernstein said the Land Trust Annual Picnic is this coming Saturday. She said there is a potential summer intern candidate who is the child of one of the Land Trust members.

Commission Member Reports:

There were no Commission Member reports.

Adjournment:

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. MADE: by S. Bergeron; SECONDED: by M. Bernstein; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk