



**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 19, 2022, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting**

**Members Present:**

Molly Bernstein, Chair; Sheridan Bauman, Chris Bazinet and Randy Bell

**Members Absent:**

Marty Marx

**Staff Present:**

Heidi Wallace, Inland Wetlands Agent  
Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order**

M. Bernstein called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Minutes- March 15, 2022**

**MOTION:** to approve the March 15, 2022 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by C. Bazinet; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell. **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet and R. Bell. **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None: **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**Bills:**

**MOTION:** to approve the time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for a total of \$128.75. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by S. Bauman; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None: **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**MOTION:** to pay Chris Hallahan \$4,750.00 for clearing at the Tom ODeil Memorial Open Space. **MADE:** by C. Bazinet; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None: **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

**Correspondence –**

There was no new correspondence.

### **Chairman's Report** –

M. Bernstein had a Zoom meeting with Daria Nettleton and Chuck Mandel, P.E., to discuss surveying and scoping out the engagement for the easement where Horse Hill Woods, HHW, enters onto the Nettleton property. The survey will be discussed with First Selectman John Hall and Heidi Wallace. They will try as best as they can to keep the trail on Town of Westbrook property. The cost for the survey will be a Town expense.

M. Bernstein attended the Vernal Pool Workshop held at the CT Forest and Park Association Headquarters, put on by the CT River Coastal Conservation District, CRCCD. M. Bernstein will be working for the CFPA this summer.

H. Wallace reported that the CC budget was approved at Town Meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Application for the Coastal Resiliency Grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund: CC to write a letter of support

H. Wallace was contacted by a representative from the Grove Beach Point Association about longstanding erosion problems. They were asking if there were any grants available to protect the shoreline. H. Wallace contacted Town Planner Peter Gillespie. He's applying for a grant from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. He's collaborating with Old Saybrook and Clinton on a Coastal Resiliency Plan. H. Wallace will write a letter of support. She will work with P. Gillespie to write the letter. It's due by next month.

- Town Ordinance for the protection and preservation of historic stone walls: B. Neale asked CC to write a letter of support to the BOS

M. Bernstein explained that this is a proposal that B. Neale has been working on with the Planning Commission. There are historic stone walls throughout the Town. Historic stone walls were built before 1920. Non-historic stone walls were built after 1920. There is a data base of historic stone walls. H. Wallace will work with M. Bernstein to write the letter.

**MOTION:** to authorize M. Bernstein to write letters on behalf of the Conservation Commission to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in support of the LISFF grant and to the Board of Selectmen in support of historic stone walls. **MADE:** by C. Bazinet; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 4-0-0.

- Ponzillo Property: updates on building a raised walkway that connects to Chapman Mill Pond

M. Bernstein said there was discussion about an easement at the previous CC meeting. R. Bell said he has not been able to get out to the property yet.

- Seven acres owned by the Town off of Break Neck Hill Road with rock feature

### **Open Space Projects:**

- Toby Hill VIII Management Plan

M. Bernstein reported that this is in progress. She's planning to work with H. Wallace and Kelly Starr from the CRCCD to prepare the Toby Hill VIII Management Plan.

- CT River Coastal Conservation District Native Plant Sale – volunteer to plant purchased plants at Tom ODell Memorial Open Space

The CC purchased plants from the CRCCD plant sale. The plants are eco regionally planted in CT. M. Bernstein will be picking up the plants on April 29. If she can pick the plants up early in the day, on April 29, she may start planting them that day. M. Bernstein has created a plan where the plants will be planted based on how much sun and shade they need and based on what has been planted there thus far. This summer, the interns can water the plants as part of their job responsibilities.

- CT Trail Day Hike at Chapman Mill Pond on Saturday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Chapman Mill Pond. The CC has participated in CT Trails Day in the past. M. Bernstein and H. Wallace will be leading the hike which will be 2.5 miles, and they will discuss vernal pool identification. The plan is to meet at the state parking lot at the end of Chapman Mill Pond Road.
- Earth Day Clean Up Projects with Clinton Outlets Volunteers  
There will be multiple groups doing different things in honor of Earth Day. Some groups will be planting, some will be picking up garbage, some will be weeding. There are various ways to participate. This event will be held on April 22. The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970.

There was discussion about next steps to participate in the pollinator pathways project. H. Wallace said she has set up a display at Town Hall with 40 packets of seeds, honey sticks and the article from Westbrook Events about pollinator pathways.

Ideally the pathways will not be more than a half mile apart. This is all in progress. Christine Goupil is the Clinton contact regarding the pollinator pathways project. S. Bauman will reach out to C. Goupil regarding the mapping and data base of pollinator pathways.

- Trail blaze markers to purchase from Voss Signs – [www.vosssigns.com](http://www.vosssigns.com)  
S. Bauman went to the CT Forest and Park Association Headquarters, and she really liked their trail blaze marker tags. She'd like to set up a similar trail blaze system at Chapman Mill Pond and Horse Hill Woods. She suggested purchasing trail blaze marker tags in 5-6 colors. She said she priced out 300 marker tags of each color for a total of 1,500 marker tags. The cost would be \$0.15 per marker tag for a total of \$225.00. There is a set-up fee of \$20.00 for the color blue. The shipping cost is \$15.00. The total would be \$260.00. For 2,500 marker tags, the total cost would be \$360.00. The more marker tags purchased, the less the cost per marker tag. They would also need to purchase aluminum nails to affix the marker tags to the trees.

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| <p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b> to authorize M. Bernstein to purchase white, yellow, orange, red, blue and possibly green trail blaze marker tags, 500 marker tags of each color, from Voss Signs at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. <b><u>MADE:</u></b> by C. Bazinet; <b><u>SECONDED:</u></b> by R. Bell; <b><u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u></b> M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell; <b><u>OPPOSED:</u></b> None; <b><u>ABSTAINED:</u></b> None; <b><u>APPROVED:</u></b> 4-0-0.</p> |
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- Summer Interns – networking applicants.  
M. Marx is taking on the responsibility of managing the summer interns. A Westbrook High School Teacher, “Miss Patty”, will spread the word to ecology club high school students in Westbrook about the

internship opportunity. K. Butterworth has uploaded the summer intern job application onto the web site.

**Old Business:**

- CC group hike from Chapman Mill Pond to Ponzillo/ Break Neck Hill Road boundary  
M. Bernstein is hoping to plan this hike for a weekend in June.

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

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| <p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b> to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. <b><u>MADE:</u></b> by R. Bell; <b><u>SECONDED:</u></b> by S. Bauman; <b><u>VOTED IN FAVOR:</u></b> M. Bernstein, S. Bauman, C. Bazinet and R. Bell; <b><u>OPPOSED:</u></b> None; <b><u>ABSTAINED:</u></b> None; <b><u>APPROVED:</u></b> 4-0-0.</p> |
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Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk