



**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, May 16, 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 7:01 p.m.

**Minutes:**

MOTION: to approve the 4/18/2023 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes. MADE: by C. Bazinet; 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 \$118.16 to Recording Clerk K. King for April 2023 meeting. MADE: by C. Bazinet; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; VOTED IN FAVOR: C. Bazinet, S. Bergeron and M. Bernstein. OPPOSED: None; ABSTAINED: None: APPROVED: 3-0-0.

MOTION: to approve payment of \$3,600.00 to Flanagan Associates for Ross property appraisal. 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.

**Correspondence:**

- Conservation Commission Updates for April/May 2023 from Heidi Wallace, Environmental Planner
- 3/27/2023 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

- 4/4/2023 IWWC Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4/24/2023 Zoning Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

**Old Business:**

- **Ross Property –**

R. Bell reported that the appraisal for the Ross Property came in at \$190,000.00. H. Wallace said that is a reasonable price.

MOTION: to write a letter to the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen recommending the purchase of the Ross Property for \$190,000.00 for Open Space. 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.

- **Pollinator Pathway Update**

Pollinator Pathway Update is being tabled until S. Bauman is present at the meeting.

**Old Business:**

- **Interns and Coverage at Salt Island on Weekends**

There are currently 2 (two) CC summer interns: 1 (one) part-time and 1(one) full-time.

The BOS is concerned about coverage at Salt Island to keep people from getting stranded out there. They would like interns to dissuade people from going out to Salt Island when they may get stranded at high tide. R. Bell said there is a suggestion to hire a third part-time intern. The three interns could take turns providing coverage at Salt Island. There is a potential for high school students to work along the interns to train.

C. Bazinet suggested the interns providing coverage on Salt Island have some training and skills in swimming and first aid/CPR in case someone needed to be rescued.

John Palermo, from the Westbrook Fire Department, suggested the FD supply the interns with a 2-way radio with instant access to the Fire Department.

R. Bell said he doesn't know if any of our current interns have any first aid or rescue skills. H. Wallace said the intern's job description is not enforcement. It's strictly education. It might be a good idea to request that the interns have training in an emergency until emergency services arrive.

M. Bernstein suggested having a QR code on shore connected to a tide chart. People could scan the QR code before going out to Salt Island. M. Bernstein said the QR code can be connected to USharbors.com which provides a tide chart on Salt Island.

C. Bazinet suggested posting a time when people have to leave the island by. M. Bernstein said when she was interning on Salt Island in 2018, they announced "last call" for the public to leave the island.

R. Bell said the BOS requested that the CC provide a list of times when the tide will be high. If another intern needs to be hired to provide Salt Island Coverage, they would like to know what the hours and cost will be. There is some coverage on the weekdays, but they would like additional Salt Island coverage on the weekends.

H. Wallace said she doesn't think there will be any coverage for Salt Island for Memorial Day Weekend.

M. Bernstein suggested going out to Salt Island one hour before low tide and coming back one hour before the end of low tide. That would allow people to be out on the island for 2 (two) hours total. This is what she did as an intern. For example, if low tide is at 2:00 p.m., the interns would be out at the island by 1:00 p.m., and they would be back by 3:00 p.m. This can change if there is a full moon and a very high tide. Getting stuck on the island can be dangerous. People can drown.

The part-time interns work approximately 20 (twenty) hours per week. A third intern would be hired at 20 (twenty) hours per week. R. Bell said he will also forward the suggestion from the CC that the interns should have some kind of emergency training. That cost may be paid for by the CC.

H. Wallace will provide the requested information to the BOS and the BOF.

R. Bell asked M. Bernstein if there were signs on Salt Island about the poison ivy. M. Bernstein said there are 4 (four) types of poison ivy on the island. She said dogs are not allowed on the island for their safety due to the changing tide and because of the birds.

The CC would like to arrange a group outing to Salt Island. Many members have not been out there before.

### **Commission Member Reports:**

The CT Trails Day hike in Westbrook is on Saturday, June 3. There will be a guided hike at Chapman Mill Pond Open Space. M. Bernstein said there is a big tree that is blocking a trail at Chapman Mill Pond Open Space. She's reaching out to others who have helped chainsaw trees in the past to clear the paths. R. Bell and S. Bergeron offered to help chainsaw. M. Bernstein said she's going to try to schedule the chainsaw volunteers for this Friday/Saturday and/or next Friday/Saturday.

### **Adjournment:**

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. MADE: by C. Bazinet; SECONDED: by S. Bergeron; 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