

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES January 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Rawson, Ms. Stagen
ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Horne
CLERK: Mr. Buell
OTHERS: Ms. Zukauskas

Seating of Members and Alternates

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Stagen, and Mr. Horne (for Ms. Rawson.)

Approval of Minutes of Dec. 7, 2022

Motion: To accept the December 7, 2022 meeting minutes as written. Motion put forth by Mr. Horne, seconded by Ms. Stagen. Passed 5-0.

Election of Officers

Motion: To accept the slate of officers as Ms. Payne as Chair, and Ms. Frank as Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission by Mr. Horne, seconded by Mr. Conroy. Passed 5-0.

Conservation Easement on 5 Ives Rd

Ms. Payne indicated that the deed agreement for the new conservation easement on 5 Ives Rd had been signed and filed with the town clerk.

Invasive Management with Steep Rock – Linda Frank

Ms. Frank indicated that she would work to meet with Mr. Larson, a representative from the Steep Rock Association, to discuss this agenda item. The Commission then discussed the meeting which had been held to address invasive species management within the town.

Following this, Ms. Frank stated that she wished to reach out to local nurseries to encourage them to stop selling invasive species. She went on to explain that a document had been drafted which listed 10 commonly sold invasive plants, and 10 native alternatives to these invasive species which may be purchased. Discussion regarding public outreach on invasive species ensued.

Mr. Horne asked if a program for identifying endangered species was available. Ms. Rawson explained that the State maintains a mapping layer for this named NDDB (Natural Diversity Data Base). A brief discussion ensued.

New Preston Open Space Management-Phragmites, Ryan Conroy

Mr. Conroy shared his screen with the Commission and displayed several images which had been taken of the New Preston Open Space recently

Discussion regarding treatment of phragmites at the New Preston Open Space ensued.

Tree Regs Progress

Ms. Payne indicated that no progress had been made on this agenda item.

Trees, Loretta Skagen's article

Ms. Stagen informed the Commission that she had finished drafting her tree article. The Commission discussed uploading this article to the town website and potential revisions to the appearance of the document. Mr. Conroy agreed to assist with future aesthetic modifications to the article.

2023 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023

Ms. Payne stated that an email had been shared with the Commission alongside some documentation which she wished for Commission members to discuss

Revisit guidance re Solar Panel placement

Ms. Payne indicated that she would still like to work on this agenda item going forward.

Recommendations for two Alternate Vacancies

Ms. Payne reminded the Commission that there are still two alternate vacancies and encouraged Commission members to consider possible candidates for these openings.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. by Mr. Horne, seconded by Ms. Stagen. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell
Conservation Commission Clerk
Town of Washington
1-6-2023

A link to access a recording of this meeting is below.

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/EgRmfOellPBESRtUCn-F2rYBip1tub_d7X_bjY4DIhrg8w?e=amRXKA