

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 3, 2021

5:15 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

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

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. and seated Ms. Payne, Mr. Gewanter, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Rawson, and Mr. Macdonald (for Ms. Frank).

Approval of Minutes for October 6, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting

Ms. Payne asked if any members of the Commission had questions or corrections for the October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes, with no additional comment from the Commission, a motion was passed to accept these minutes.

Motion To approve the October 6, 2021 Meeting minutes by Mr. Gewanter,
Seconded by Ms. Rawson. Passed 5-0.

Tree Regulations

Ms. Payne stated that the Zoning Commission had addressed the proposed tree regulations at their October 25, 2021 meeting. She noted that the Zoning Commission had referred to these proposed regulations as 'Tree Cutting Regulations,' and clarified that these regulations should be referred to as "Tree Regs." Following this clarification, Ms. Payne stated that Mr. Solley, the Chair of the Zoning Commission, had requested that the Zoning Commission review these proposed regulations at a future meeting. Ms. Payne then stated that she would send these proposed regulations to Ms. Stagen.

Ms. Payne stated that the Zoning Commission was hosting a special meeting on November 4th regarding the Land Tech Compliance report for the Wykeham Rise project at 5:00.

New Preston Open Space Management – Phragmites, Ryan Conroy

Ms. Payne asked if Mr. Conroy could provide the Commission with an update on the phragmite situation at the New Preston open Space. Mr. Conroy indicated that he had spoken with New England Aquatic who had stated that they did not feel there was harm in cutting phragmites at

or below the water level at this location as a test. Mr. Conroy went on to state that New England Aquatic had indicated that they would be able to potentially preform this work in November or the spring of 2022. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided that prior to committing any funds towards these tests, they would require an estimate from New England Aquatic. Mr. Conroy asked if the Commission felt that a 20x20 area would be sufficient for a proposed test. Following their approval of this size, he stated that he would contact New England Aquatic to obtain an estimate for cutting that would be performed 8-10 inches below the water level in a 20x20 area, and adjacent to that area another 20x20 section at water level.

2023 POCD Ongoing Discussion

Ms. Payne stated that she would like to hold a special meeting to closely look over the Natural Resource Inventory Report which had been published in 2000. Mr. Conroy proposed that this meeting take place at the Pavilion. Mr. Buell suggested hosting this in the conference room at Town Hall which would enable this meeting to be hybrid.

Western Ct Clean Air Action Report – David Gewanter

Mr. Gewanter informed the Commission that only the particulate sensor for the monitoring device under his care was functioning, and indicated that all other sensors require a recalibration. Mr. Gewanter stated that there had been some discussion on getting these monitoring devices recalibrated, but nothing definitive had been decided.

Revisit Guidance re Solar Panel Placement

Ms. Payne stated that she had read a number of articles regarding large solar farms in the Connecticut and indicated that she would like to see if some regulation could be created within Zoning. Mr. Buell indicated that there is a limitation of 15% lot coverage for projects already in the town's Zoning regulations which would put some restriction on Solar farms. Mr. Conroy indicated that on large lots that had as many as 200 acres, this restriction would still enable the installation of a 30-acre solar field which he indicated was a substantial size for a solar array. The Commission agreed that proposed solar field regulation was something they would like to pursue going forward.

Other and/or Old Business

Ms. Payne stated that the town's Sustainability Committee had achieved Bronze Certification which she indicated was a great accomplishment.

Ms. Payne stated that there was still an opening on the Commission and indicated that she would like the Commission to consider potential alternate members.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:433 p.m. by Mr. Gewanter, seconded by Mr. Conroy. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Buell", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dennis Buell

Conservation Commission Clerk

Town of Washington

11-9-2021