

## WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES July 6, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Payne, Ms. Stagen, Mr. Conroy.  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Frank, Ms. Rawson  
CLERK: Mr. Buell  
OTHERS: Ms. Zukauskas, Mr. Larson, Ms. Anderson

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:23 p.m. and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Stagen, and Mr. Conroy.

#### **Approval of Minutes for the June 1, 2022**

Ms. Payne indicated that she hoped the Commission had been able to review the Minutes for the June 2022 meeting. Following this, a motion was passed to accept these minutes.

Motion            To accept minutes as written by Ms. Stagen, seconded by Mr. Conroy.  
Passed 3-0.

#### **New Preston Open Space Management- Phragmites, Ryan Conroy**

Mr. Conroy provided a brief description of New England Aquatics' progress with the removal of phragmites at the New Preston Open Space. He indicated that they had encountered small obstacles regarding property boundaries and areas of the property which are not accessible with the equipment owned by New England Aquatics. Following this, Mr. Conroy stated that he was awaiting access to a drone to take photographs of the area. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Conroy stated that he hoped that Mr. Vogt would be able to mark up a map showing areas of the New Preston Open Space which were inaccessible with his equipment.

#### **Tree Regs Progress**

Ms. Payne informed the Commission that she had met with Ms. Hill and Ms. Frank to discuss the proposed tree cutting regulations. She indicated that at this meeting they had discussed the possibility of having welcome letters sent out to new property owners within the Town of Washington with information regarding town regulations. Ms. Payne indicated that details regarding this letter were still being worked on, and that it was their hope that the Land Use Enforcement Officer, and the Land Use Administrator would sign this letter prior to sending it out.

Following this, Ms. Stagen indicated that she felt the Conservation Commission should begin a campaign to raise awareness for the importance of trees within the environment. Ms. Payne requested that Ms. Stagen draft a document regarding this. Mr. Conroy stated that he felt engineers and architects who frequently work within Washington should be included in this informational campaign. Conversation ensued.

**2023 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023 – Need an in-person meeting**

Mr. Conroy stated that he had reached out several times to the Land Use office regarding the Natural Resource Inventory Report. He went on to indicate that he had not received the information he had requested. The Commission asked that Mr. Conroy follow up again to obtain this information from the Land Use Office.

**Western CT Clean Air Action Report – Linda Frank**

No new news was reported for the Western CT Clean Air Action Report.

**Revisit Guidance re Solar Panel Placement**

Ms. Payne indicated there was no news on this agenda item, and stated that she would like to pursue this going forward. A short discussion ensued.

**Recommendations for three Alternate Vacancies**

Ms. Payne indicated that the Commission currently has no alternate members, and expressed her desire to find recommendations to fill these vacancies.

**Other and/or Old Business**

Mr. Conroy asked if anyone in the meeting had anything additional to contribute. Ms. Zukauskas offered to assist the Commission in its campaign to raise awareness regarding the importance of trees within the environment, and Mr. Larson stated that the Steep Rock Association would be happy to help the Conservation Commission with the P.O.C.D.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Conservation Commission Clerk  
Town of Washington  
7-6-2022

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

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/Em4Kp43AAPdBiZk\\_qlTwg1EBkuDNHD9puE2P89vtz4Undw?e=DnLNCA](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Em4Kp43AAPdBiZk_qlTwg1EBkuDNHD9puE2P89vtz4Undw?e=DnLNCA)