

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES July 5, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Frank, Mr. Conroy, Ms. Stagen
Via Teleconference: Ms. Payne, Ms. Rawson
MEMBERS ABSENT:
ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Faison
ALTERNATES ABSENT: Mr. Horne
OTHERS: Ms. Jamieson

Vice Chair Frank called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Ms. Rawson, Ms. Stagen, and Mr. Conroy.

Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2023

The Commissioners noted that page 2, headings for **2023 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023** and **Recommendations for two Alternate Vacancies** should be switched.

Motion: To accept the June 7, 2023, meeting minutes as amended by Ms. Stagen, seconded by Ms. Payne. Passed 5-0.

Letter from Board of Selectmen

The Commissioners present at this meeting acknowledged receipt of this letter. There was a brief discussion regarding the subject of decorum at Town meetings. Everyone present confirmed that they read the letter.

Invasive Management– Linda Frank

Ms. Frank informed the Commission that Ashton Hodge, a Shepaug Senior, started work for the Conservation Commission as an intern. She stated that she and Mr. Faison met Mr. Hodge at the New Preston Open Space this past Monday, 7/3/2023.

Mr. Faison stated that Mr. Hodge began walking the property and noting the location of invasive plants on the map. He informed the Commission members that they walked the northern part of the property which has thorny invasives and tends to be a wet area. Burning Bush as well as other invasive plants, that had been noted elsewhere, were located in this wooded area. Mr. Faison stated that he felt Mr. Hodge is enthusiastic, not afraid to go off trail and feels that this internship has a lot of potential. There was a brief discussion regarding using mapping to review the history of the property.

Ms. Rawson feels that the portion of the pond that is owned by the Town will need ongoing treatment to remove the phragmites because there is a portion of the pond that is not owned by the Town that is a significant seed source of phragmites. She explained that the cost, possibly on an annual basis, will not provide the outcome that the Commission is seeking.

Ms. Frank responded that she agrees with Ms. Rawson and stated that the Commission might possibly have to redirect their approach towards areas that can be treated and maintained.

Mr. Faison revisited the subject Ms. Frank had suggested regarding creating a pollinator pathway at the New Preston Open Space.

The Commissioners continued a brief discussion regarding pollinator pathways and cost versus outcome. Ms. Frank suggested a possible subcommittee could be started in the September. The Commissioners present were in favor of establishing this subcommittee.

New Preston Open Space Management-Phragmites, Ryan Conroy

The Commission agreed that this subject was mostly covered. Mr. Conroy stated that he will continue to monitor the growth of the phragmites and provide pictures for the Commission.

Tree Regs Progress

Ms. Payne indicated that the proposed regulations have been forwarded to Attorney Zizka. She explained that Attorney Zizka was away for the month of June and she will follow up with Ms. Hill before the next meeting in September.

2023 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023

Ms. Payne and Ms. Frank stated that they did not talk with Mr. Hileman, Chairman of the Planning Commission. Ms. Frank noted that her main concern was the lack of water testing by the Town and she is planning on discussing this with Mr. Hileman.

Revisit guidance re Solar Panel placement

The Commission stated they have not made any progress on this subject but should keep it in their sights. Mr. Conroy stated that he will look into how different towns regulate solar panels.

Recommendations for two Alternate Vacancies

Ms. Frank asked that the Commissioners keep their eyes and ears open for possible alternates.

Other and/or Old Business

Ms. Frank noted that staff will no longer be attending their meetings and that the minutes will be done off the recording. The Commissioners expressed gratitude for the exceptional work that Mr. Buell had been done for them.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting by Ms. Payne, seconded by Mr. Conroy. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley White

Land Use Administrator

Town of Washington

7-6-2023

Minutes are subject to approval

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

https://townofwashingtoncc-my.sharepoint.com/:u:/g/personal/swhite_washingtonct_org/Ed30vG7AeaFKhfHJqbuRzWYBtgGYFb_bZp_0qTTd7bK1iA?e=QKqMYI