

# **WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **MINUTES**

**October 3, 2022**

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

### **Seating of Members and Alternates**

Ms. Payne called the meeting to order at 5:18 and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Ms. Rawson, Ms. Stagen, and Mr. Horne (for Mr. Conroy.)

### **Approval of Minutes of Sept. 6, 2022 Conservation Commission Meeting**

Motion: To approve the September 7, 2022 minutes as written, by Mr. Horne, seconded by Ms. Stagen. Passed unanimously.

### **Offer of Conservation Easement on Ives Rd**

The Commission discussed the proposed conservation easement for 11 Ives Road. Ms. Payne indicated that the deed restriction for the proposal would need to include a stipulation that the easement will need to be mowed at least twice a year. Discussion ensued. Ms. Payne indicated that she would ask for the applicant to have the proposed deed restriction drafted for the Commission to consider at the November meeting. Mr. Conroy and Mr. Horne asked for clarification on easement deed language and what qualifies a “good” easement. Ms. Payne indicated that this was a discussion for a future meeting.

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

Mr. Conroy stated that he had spoken with New England Aquatics regarding future work at the New Preston Open Space. The Commission discussed the effectiveness of their treatment of phragmites in this area, and ways to monitor the water level in this area.

### **Tree Regs Progress**

Ms. Payne stated that work regarding the proposed tree regulations was ongoing, and went on to explain that the subcommittee working on this proposal had received comments from Attorney Zizka which they needed clarification on.

### **2023 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023**

Ms. Payne stated that she would like to discuss this agenda item in-person at the November meeting.

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

After a brief discussion, Ms. Frank indicated that the report which had been developed for the Western CT Clean Air Action Committee would be posted to the town website at a future date.

#### **Revisit guidance re Solar Panel placement**

Ms. Payne stated that she still wished for the Conservation Commission to develop proposed solar panel regulations for the Zoning Commission to consider. Discussion ensued.

#### **Recommendations for two Alternate Vacancies**

This agenda item was not discussed by the Commission.

#### **New/Other Business**

Ms. Stagen indicated that she had received feedback from Ms. Rawson regarding the letter she had drafted to educate the public on the importance of trees within the environment. She went on to explain that Ms. Rawson had suggested more directly addressing property owners who own unprotected land within this letter. Ms. Payne requested that a new draft of the document be forwarded to the Commission.

The Commission discussed the invasive species management plan which the Commission would be asked to develop within the upcoming update to the 2023 P.O.C.D. Mr. Larson, a representative from the Steep Rock Association, stated that he would share their invasive management plan with the Commission. Following a brief discussion, Ms. Payne indicated that she wished to discuss this further in person.

Ms. Frank stated that approximately 30% of the town is currently protected by conservation easements, and asked how much of the town should be protected before easement offers should be rejected. Ms. Rawson indicated that this is a complex issue that the Commission would not have time to discuss at this meeting. A short discussion ensued.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 5:48 by Mr. Horne, seconded by Ms. Stagen.  
Passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dennis Buell*

Dennis Buell  
Conservation Commission Clerk  
Town of Washington  
10-3-2022

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

[https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell\\_washingtonct\\_org/EgGKmcCaBUxPsuEptsTbNccBsOs\\_oG1SjtwQUIq4LCy4BLA?e=pmvUWe](https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/EgGKmcCaBUxPsuEptsTbNccBsOs_oG1SjtwQUIq4LCy4BLA?e=pmvUWe)