

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES March 2, 2022

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

Approval of Minutes of Feb. 2, 2022

With no comments or proposed amendments to the February 2, 2022 meeting minutes a motion was passed to accept these minutes as written.

Motion: To accept the February 2, 2022 meeting minutes as written by Ms. Frank, seconded by Mr. Conroy. Passed 4-0.

New Preston Open Space Management-Phragmites, Ryan Conroy

Ms. Payne asked Mr. Conroy to provide an update on the removal of phragmites at the New Preston Open Space. Mr. Conroy stated that discussion with New England Aquatic was ongoing regarding the cost of this treatment and when this testing would be performed. Ms. Payne indicated that she felt the testing should be conducted once the site dries out more. Mr. Conroy suggested waiting until May to perform the test work.

Tree Regs Progress - Zoning met on 2/28.

Ms. Payne thanked Ms. Branson for attending the Conservation Commission meeting, and asked her to provide an update on the proposed Zoning regulation. Ms. Branson stated that consideration of the public hearing for the proposed regulation had been continued to the next Zoning Commission Meeting. She indicated that there were 22 letters sent to the Zoning Commission. Discussion regarding the proposed regulation ensued.

2023 P.O.C.D. ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2023

Ms. Payne stated that the Commission had not yet addressed the 2023 revisions to the P.O.C.D. Ms. Frank suggested meeting in person for the April Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the P.O.C.D. and indicated that Mr. Hileman, Chair of the Planning Commission, should be invited to participate in these discussions. Mr. Hileman who was in attendance stated that he would be happy to attend this meeting.

Western CT Clean Air Action Report – David Gewanter

Ms. Frank stated that the Western CT Clean Air Action Committee was still awaiting a report on the data which had been collected. She reminded the Commission that this data had been sent to UCONN and that a scientist working for the school had compiled this data and would be responsible for drafting this report. Ms. Frank informed the Commission that she hoped this report would be available for the April Conservation Commission meeting.

Revisit guidance re Solar Panel placement

Ms. Payne indicated that she had received information regarding potential solar for the Town of Washington which she would forward to the Commission. Discussion regarding solar for the Town Hall ensued. Mr. Buell informed the Commission that at previous Sustainability Committee meetings, there had been talk of solar being installed in the parking area for Town Hall. Mr. Hileman, Chair of the Planning Commission, explained to the Commission that it would be impossible for large scale solar farms to be installed in Washington because it was not a permitted use within residential districts within the town. Further discussion ensued.

Recommendations for one Alternate Vacancy

The Commission did not discuss this agenda item.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Buell
Conservation Commission Clerk
3-7-2022