

# WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

April 7, 2021

5:15 P.M.

Meeting Held Via Zoom Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Dupuis

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Rawson

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Mr. Macdonald

CLERK: Mr. Buell

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:17 P.M. and seated Ms. Payne, Ms. Frank, Mr. Conroy, and Ms. Rawson (for Ms. Dupuis.)

Ms. Payne opened the meeting by thanking Mr. O'Hazo for his service as a member of the Conservation Commission, and went on to thank Ms. Rawson for her willingness to become a regular member of the Commission. She stated that the Town Selectmen would need to officially vote her in as a full member of the Commission and that they would do so at the next Town Selectmen meeting.

### Recommendations for Alternate Vacancy

Ms. Frank informed the Commission that Mr. Gewanter, who is a physics teacher at Gilbert in Winsted, had expressed an interest in joining the Commission as an alternate member. She stated that he is presently involved with Western Clean Air Action and that she felt that he would be a great addition to the Commission. Ms. Payne indicated that she would reach out to the Town Selectmen regarding this, and reminded the Commission that there is still an alternate vacancy which will need to be filled.

### Approval of Minutes March 3, 2021

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the March 3, 2021 meeting as written by Ms. Frank, seconded by Ms. Rawson. Passed 4-0.

Ms. Payne indicated to the Commission that in regard to the Historic Informational Sign for the New Preston Falls, she had identified 2 potential locations for the sign to be placed, and that Pergola had agreed to allow a sign to be put up by their parking area as well.

### **New Preston Open Space Management**

Ms. Payne asked Ms. Frank if she had been successful in setting up a meeting with New England Aquatic at the New Preston Open Space, and Ms. Frank indicated that she had not yet heard back from them. The Commission agreed that they would still like to perform a test at the New Preston Open Space in a small area.

Ms. Payne stated that she had forwarded the minutes from the June 2010 Conservation Commission meeting which she felt would be useful for the Commission especially as it considers making the New Preston Open Space more accessible to the public. Ms. Payne went on to state that she felt the Commission should tread lightly in its decision to make this space more accessible. The Commission then held a short conversation regarding possible signage for the space.

Ms. Frank suggested advertising the space on the town website as a birding area, and Ms. Rawson indicated that she agreed that the Commission should tread lightly while considering advertisement of this area. She went on to state that if the Conservation Commission does decide to make the New Preston Open Space more public with a sign, it should be prepared for any possible problems which would arise from an influx of visitors. The Commission then held a short conversation regarding what the Open Space should be used for, and Mr. Conroy stated that he had never before seen anyone use this space. The Commission then discussed the limited road access to the area.

### **Native Trees for New Community Center Landscape**

Ms. Frank stated to the Commission that she had spoken on the phone with Mr. Brinton, First Selectman, regarding her idea of having native trees planted at the new Community Center, and that Mr. Brinton had been enthusiastic about this idea. She stated that he planned to reach out to the individuals in charge of this project to inform them of this idea.

### **Revisit Guidance re Solar Panel Placement**

Ms. Payne informed the Commission that she had not yet gotten in touch with Ray Furse regarding this, and that there was no new news on this.

### **LID/Low Impact Development & Tree Regulations**

Ms. Payne stated to the Commission that the Zoning Commission had not discussed this item yet, but hoped that they would be willing to discuss this item soon.

### **Western CT Clean Air Action Report**

Ms. Frank reported that there was a meeting planned for next Monday and that they would be reviewing a DEEP report, and that there will be a presentation by a University of Connecticut scientist named Ms. Wagstrom who is working with WCCAA. She went on to

state that Ms. Murphy from Kent was also in contact with a group from Dover Plains, New York which could provide more information about the Cricket Valley Power Plant to WCCAA. Ms. Payne indicated that they had initially hoped to put the air monitors for this project at the Region 12 High School, but that this would no longer be an option. Mr. Gewanter and Mrs. Frank will be looking for new locations.

### **Consider Projects for 2021**

Ms. Payne stated that she had forwarded an email to the Commission regarding the Earth Day event in town which will be held on Saturday, April 24 and asked if the Commission would have any interest in setting up a table for the event. Several Commission members indicated that they would have interest in attending this event.

### **Other and/or Old Business**

No other business was discussed by the Commission.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Buell  
Town of Washington  
Conservation Commission Clerk  
4--2021

