

## Conservation Commission

### Town of Willington

#### Minutes

Wednesday February 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM

[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:02 pm by Chairman K.Demers
- II. **Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, P.Phillips, M.Schreiber, R.Shabot. Absent: J.Kulig. Alternate N. Jones was seated for J.Kulig.
- III. **Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2022 meeting:** On a motion by RS/CJ: **"The minutes of January 19, 2021 be approved as written."** Approved. Unanimous.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** n/a
- V. **Finance:** Treasurer's Report: No new expenditures. Balance of \$1122.14 remains;  
2022-2023 Budget: CJ presented the budget as approved at the last meeting. Budget will go to BOF this week.
- VI. **Old Business**
  - A. **Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:**  
KD noted again that we are still in the expected waiting period for grant results.
  - B. **Properties Management**
    - 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:  
KD noted that a tree is down on the Taylor-Ruby Connector. RS and PA will try to arrange for the removal. The trail under the fallen top on Julia's still needs rerouting. Julia's Trail bridge still needs replacement.
    - 2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:
      - a) KD noted that she and C.Demers replaced the QR-coded trail sign at the Nipmuck Trail entrance to the Knowlton Preserve on Marsh Road. They also removed a blowdown on the Nipmuck.
      - b) Signage: DEEP/Joshua's Tract/Conn. For. and Park acknowledgement sign on Knowlton Preserve at Knowlton/ Talmadge trail head: 1) Duplicating the signs at the entrances to the Nipmuck Tr. on Mason and Marsh Rds will cost \$150.00. 2) Location of sign and more limited information was discussed. 3) CJ will draft a sign with alternate wording and circulate it. 4) Signage clarifying trail head locations from the parking lot was discussed. 5) Topic to be discussed at next meeting.
  - C. **Park and Preserve Maintenance Responsibility/Trail Stewards.** KD presented a draft document outlining volunteer opportunities for citizens to help manage trails and open spaces and listing possible responsibilities for trail stewards. Ways to publicize this information was discussed as well as ways to bring the Knowlton/Talmadge location and features to the public's attention and awareness. KD will discuss ways to collaborate on managing Town recreational opportunities and facilities with Parks and Rec Commission.
  - D. **Town Development:** (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) No new reports.
  - E. **Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** No news.
  - F. **Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives:** KD shared information on some of the activities that surrounding towns are organizing to promote awareness of the importance of recognizing and establishing pollinator pathways. Several possible activities that WCC

could carry out, such as holding an informational program and posting signs on Town open space lands to enhance awareness were discussed. To be continued.

**G. Membership:** Patty Phillips was appointed to regular membership on the Commission by the BOS on Feb. 7 to fill the remainder of the term vacated by J.Cartabiano. Her term will expire on 12/01/22. KD clarified WCC terms of appointment with the Town Clerk. Henceforth, terms will expire on 12/01 and begin on 12/02.

**H. Other:** n/a

**VII. New Business**

**A. Communications:** KD noted that the Commission has received a letter of notification and a packet of engineering data and studies regarding extending the height by 56 feet of an existing cell tower at 343 Daleville Road. New Cingular Wireless is petitioning the Conn. Siting Council for such. Copies of the petition are available in the Town Clerk's office.

**B. Other:** KD noted that a Town commission is studying ways in which the Town might utilize the \$1.7 million in ARPA funds and that the Commission should think about ways we could utilize some of this money to enhance and further our mission.

**VIII. Next Meeting:** March 16, 2022 via Zoom

**IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Minutes submitted by P.Andersen, secretary pro tem

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TOWN CLERK