

**Conservation Commission**  
**Town of Willington**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday March 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
**[Remote Meeting via Zoom]**

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:03 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, J.Kulig Absent: N. Jones
- III. Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2022 meeting:** On a motion by RS/CJ: **“The minutes of February 16, 2022 be approved as written.”** Approved. J.Kulig abstain
- IV. Present to Speak: Connie Bedan**
- V. Finance:** Treasurer’s Report: No new expenditures. Balance of \$1122.14
- VI. Old Business**
  - A. Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:** Field work for the survey appears to have been completed.
  - B. Properties Management**
    - 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:

Commission members have made numerous trips to the Park in the last few weeks to clear fallen trees from the trails, to make repairs on bridges and boardwalks, and to assess what additional work needs to be done in the near future. The significant increase in beaver activity has necessitated protecting certain valuable trees. The Commission thanked resident Joe Philippi and his son Nathan for replacing and repairing the duck boxes on the ponds. WCC will work with Public Works Dept to get the viewing platform back in place on the beaver pond shore.
    - 2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:

Discussion took place regarding options for possible relocation of the trailheads for the Knowlton and Talmadge trails to accommodate access from the parking lot, location of the trailhead for the new Talmadge addition, locations for new and updated signage, and possible designs for an information kiosk. To be continued.
  - C. Park and Preserve Maintenance Responsibility/Trail Stewards:**

A number of people have responded to flyers asking for volunteers to help steward the trails in Fenton-Ruby/Drobney and the Knowlton and Talmadge preserves. A workshop in trail maintenance is being planned in conjunction with a workday on April 23 from 9:30-noon at Fenton-Ruby.
  - D. Town Development:** (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) No new information.
  - E. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** No news.
  - F. Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives:** Connie Bedan informed the Commission that the Girl Scouts were working on projects to educate themselves and others about the importance of pollinator pathways and to establish pollinator gardens. Consideration is being given to establishing a pollinator garden somewhere in Fenton-Ruby Park where visitors could see and learn about the importance of trying to slow the serious decline of pollinators. The Commission is highly supportive of these projects.
  - G. Membership:** n/a
  - H. Other:** KD informed the Commission that the towns of Ashford and Willington are applying for grants for brownfield mitigation on the Cadlerock property recently acquired

by the towns. It was noted that the Conn. Forest and Park Assoc's Nipmuck Trail traverses both properties.

**VII. New Business**

- A. CT Trails Days June 4 - 5:** Discussion was held regarding holding a nature walk lead by environmental educator Barbara Austin in Fenton-Ruby Park on June 4. This would be done in collaboration with the Parks and Rec Dept. On a motion by CJ/RS, **"The WCC will spend \$150 to pay Barbara Austin to lead a nature walk in Fenton-Ruby Park on June 4<sup>th</sup>."** Approved Unanimously.

Discussion was also held regarding collaborating with P&R to hold a bird of prey program at Fenton-Ruby. Members noted summer/fall would be better than this spring.

- B. Communications:** KD noted that a Town commission is reviewing requests for uses of the \$1.7 million of ARPA funding. The Commission discussed possible uses and will continue to consider how funding could be used to enhance its mission.

- C. Other:** n/a

**VIII. Next Meeting:** April 20, 2022 via Zoom

**IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by P.Andersen, secretary pro tem

RECEIVED  
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 MAR 18 A 11:40

  
TOWN CLERK