

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday February 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM
[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:04 pm by Chairman Kathy Demers
- II. **Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members present included: Kathy Demers, Carol Jordan, Bob Shabot, Patty Phillips and Jackie Kulig. On a motion by CJ/BS: *"Alternate Nora Jones be seated for Marilyn Schreiber"*. Unanimously approved.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by KD/CJ: *"The minutes of January 18, 2023 be approved with a correction under Old Business/Talmadge Estate Property/Signage to indicate that the motion made by CJ/BS: 'The CC authorizes the purchase of DEEP required signage for the addition to the Talmadge Tract and replacement signage for the original portion of the Talmadge Tract to add Eleanor L. Talmadge's name' was unanimously approved."* Unanimously approved.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** None
- V. **Treasurer's Report/Finances:** No new expenditures. Budget Balance available: \$1187.16.
-**'23-'24 Budget Request for \$1500:** Rescheduled for BOF meeting on February 23rd.
-**CIP request:** Still awaiting CIP decision on CC request for \$30,000/year x 5 years.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - A. **Talmadge Estate Property: -**
 - DEEP OS Grant:** DEEP has approved revised survey that includes NAD 83 coordinates. Town has submitted updated Certificate of Title since closing. Once approved, Town will sign the grant agreement and conservation easement with the State.
 - Signage:** Members approved final language and logos for 2 signs; The sign for the original Talmadge parcel will contain the 2005 DEEP grant funding date/logo and the sign for the new Talmadge Estate parcel will contain the 2021 grant funding date/logo. Both signs will contain the names of Daniel W. and Eleanor L. Talmadge based on the family's wishes. Signs of All Kinds will provide the 2 signs for a quoted cost of \$200; require 50% deposit.
 - New Trail:** To be brushed out and blazed in April. Trail color will be "yellow". Members decided to name the new trail: "Split Rock Trail".
 - Public Dedication:** Still waiting to hear from Talmadge family about preferred date.
 - B. **Properties Management**
 1. **Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:**
 - Public Works staff used a brush mower to remove invasive plants around the hayfield perimeter. Plan to do annually.
 - PP reported she was charged by 2 dogs off leash while walking Ruby Trail. She spoke with the owner about need to keep the dogs on leash while in FRP.
 - Chestnut trees: Members discussed adding two more hybrid Chestnut Trees to the FRP to support cross pollination of 2 other previously planted trees. Estimated cost \$100. On a motion by CJ/BS: *"The CC will purchase two hybrid Chestnut Trees to plant at Fenton Ruby Park in the spring."* Unanimously approved.
 2. **Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:**
 - Parking Lot Signage: Tabled
 - Connwood Forest Management Plan: Members discussed the draft plan; KD will forward

suggested changes to Connwood.

C. Town Development: No news reported.

D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication: KD noted that CT Land Conservation Council is holding their annual conference on March 25th at Wesleyan University in Middletown. Members were encouraged to consider attending.

E. Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives: No news reported.

F. Open Space Opportunities: 7 acre parcel on Burma Road. KD has requested meeting with the First Selectwoman and Tax Assessor to discuss issues further and will report back to the CC.

G. Willington Wire: Submission for spring edition due March 17th. Will consider writing about the dedication event on the new Talmadge property if date can be determined before then.

VII. New Business

A. Communications: None.

B. Other: None

VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: March 15, 2023

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:09 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kathy.Demers, Chairman and secretary pro tem

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT
Received for record February 16, 2023
At 9:14 am BAI