

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday March 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM

[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:08 pm by Chairman Kathy Demers
- II. Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members present included: Kathy Demers, Carol Jordan, Bob Shabot, Patty Phillips and Marilyn Schreiber.
- III. Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by CJ/BS: *"The minutes of February 15, 2023 be approved as written."* Ayes: KD, CJ, BS, and PP. MS abstained. Motion carried.
- IV. Present to Speak:** None
- V. Treasurer's Report/Finances:** Anticipate expenditures of \$96.40 for 2 hybrid Chestnut trees and \$200 for Talmadge property signs. Unencumbered budget balance approximately \$890. KD attended BOF meeting in February to present commission's 23-'24 Budget Request for \$1500.
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Talmadge Estate Property: -**
 - DEEP OS Grant:** First Selectwoman will be signing the grant and conservation easement agreements sent by DEEP so the grant award can be released.
 - Signage:** 2 signs ordered from Signs of All Kind (\$200 to be paid on delivery).
 - New "Split Rock Trail":** Work day set for April 22nd 10 am to brush out/blaze trail/ install sign. BS will dig holes ahead of time to install the posts. CD will update trail brochure after trail map updated.
 - Public Dedication:** Date to be determined next meeting.
 - B. Properties Management**
 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:
 - CJ will get more trail brochures and Taylor Pond Guides.
 - No trail issues reported. PP contacted administrators of "All Trails" website to request they correct online information about "Taylor Pond Trail" which stated that dogs were allowed off-leash. They responded quickly to correct the info.
 - Hybrid Chestnut trees: KD ordered 2 bare root trees from Chestnut Hill Outdoors. Shipping expected around April 1st.
 - Discussed FRP volunteer work day in May. Date to be determined next meeting.
 2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:
 - No trail issues reported.
 - Connwood Forest Management Plan: Edits requested by WCC were made and final plan received this week. Approved ARPA funds to be used for final payment.
 - C. Town Development:** No news reported.
 - D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** 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:** KD attended regional group's Zoom meeting today. Several spring/summer activities being planned by other Towns and organizations. KD will reach out to Willington Girl Scout Troop to see how involved they plan to be with Pollinator Garden at Fenton Ruby Park this year.
 - F. Open Space Opportunities:** 1) 7 acre parcel on Burma Road. Tabled. 2) Discussed possible interest in forested parcel on Jared Sparks Road located adjacent to Town-owned property.

G. Willington Wire: KD will submit short article related to CC responsibilities/activities to try to attract new members.

VII. New Business

A. Communications: None.

B. Other: 1) Membership – 1 regular vacancy and 2 alternate positions still open
2) Discussed potential educational events for the public this summer.

VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: April 19, 2023

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was unanimously adjourned at ~ 7:50 pm.

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

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TOWN CLERK