

Conservation Commission  
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday April 19, 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, Marilyn Schreiber, Jackie Kulig. Alternate Nora Jones was present. On a motion by CJ/MS: *"Nora Jones be seated for Patty Phillips."* Motion carried unanimously.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by CJ/MS: *"The minutes of March 15, 2023 be approved with one correction under 'New Split Rock Trail' item to change the initials "CD" to "CJ".* Ayes: KD, CJ, MS; Abstentions: NJ and JK. Motion carried.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** None
- V. **Treasurer's Report/Finances:** Treasurer C. Jordan reported the following new expenditures: \$200 to Signs of All Kinds for Talmadge Tract signage; \$186.06 to O.L. Willards for trail development materials; and \$96.40 to reimburse K. Demers for ordering two hybrid Chestnut trees. Total budget expended to date is \$795.30. All \$2800 in ARPA funds has been expended for the Knowlton-Talmadge Forest Management Plan. No ARPA funds approved for property and trail maintenance items have been expended yet.
- VI. **Old Business**
  - A. **Talmadge Estate Property: -**
    - DEEP OS Grant:** The Town received \$81,250 in grant funds last week. \$15,437 of these funds will go back to the Open Space Fund and \$65,812 to the Reserve Fund.
    - Signage:** 2 signs received from Signs of All Kind. Bob Shabot and Chris Demers installed the posts and plywood backing board. Will mount signs once trail is complete.
    - New "Split Rock Trail":** Work day set for April 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 am to brush out/blaze trail/install signage. KD reported 2 additional 4x4 posts are needed to install some trail signage. On a motion by CJ/MS: **"The CC will expend funds necessary to purchase materials needed to complete the trail."** Motion carried unanimously.
    - C. Jordan will update the trail system brochure, to include the new map that J. Kulig has designed. New trail map and narrative will be posted on the CC website.
    - Public Dedication:** At Talmadge family's request, CC will delay having a dedication event until this fall. Meanwhile, CC will publicize and open the new trail to the public once completed this spring.
  - B. **Properties Management**
    1. **Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:**
      - No trail issues reported by stewards.
      - More Taylor Pond Trail Guides needed. On a motion by CJ/MS: **"The CC will expend funds to purchase 100 Taylor Pond Trail Guides."** Motion carried unanimously.
      - Last week J. Kulig, P. Philips and K. Demers planted 2 hybrid chestnut trees near existing two hybrids. P. Phillips volunteered to water the trees through the summer.
    2. **Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:**
      - No trail issues reported, but a local resident noted/extinguished a camp fire in the parking lot. K. Demers reported issue to First Selectwoman and requested that the State Police be asked to monitor the parking lot more frequently.
      - Kiosk project: 2 posts were installed. CC will blaze a short trail from parking lot to

connect with the Knowlton Spur Trail.

-Forest Management Plan by Connwood is complete and will be posted on CC website.

- C. Town Development:** No news reported.
- D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** No news reported.
- E. Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives:** Girl scouts will provide some pollinator garden maintenance at FRP this summer. Members discussed ideas to replace last year's annuals with perennials. J. Kulig will provide wood chips for mulching. N. Jones volunteered to water the garden this summer.
- F. Open Space Opportunities:** Re: Forested 7 acre parcel with old camp and pond on Burma Road. Land owner has given the Town an opportunity to make an offer on the property for open space acquisition. Discussion was held about potential benefits and costs to consider before recommending this property for addition to Fenton-Ruby Park. C. Jordan advised identifying all potential costs before discussing this opportunity with Board of Finance. Costs for dam inspection and structure removal have been identified. Members discussed importance of determining the property's market value. K. Demers will contact several appraisers and get appraisal quotes to facilitate discussion about costs at next meeting.
- G. Willington Wire:** K. Demers submitted a short article related to the CC's responsibilities and activities in order to attract new members.
- VII. Other:** Members discussed various CC roles and responsibilities, difficulty recruiting new members as well as the need to plan ahead for member succession in the future.
- VIII. New Business**
  - A. Communications:** None reported.
  - B. Other:** None
- VIX. Next Scheduled Meeting:** May 17, 2023
- IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was unanimously adjourned at ~ 8:40 pm.

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

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TOWN CLERK