

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday July 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM
[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:04pm.
- II. Roll Call / Seating of Alternates** P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, M. Schreiber, R. Shabot
- III. Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting July 2, 2021.** On a motion by CJ/PA the minutes of the Special Meeting July 2, 2021 were approved.
C. Jordan, M. Schreiber, R. Shabot, P.Andersen voted aye. K .Demers abstained.
- IV. Present to Speak.** Present in the audience were Nora Jones, Ali LeMay.
- V. Finance:** Treasurer's Report; Expenditures
2020-2021 fiscal year expenditures were \$675.85 for basic budget and \$3,750 for Talmadge parcel appraisal: Total - \$4,425.85, leaving unexpended balances of \$824.15 on basic budget and \$1,250.00 on appraisal: Total Unexpended on Adjusted Budget - \$2,074.15.
Payment of \$1,000 to Connwood from Park & Recreation Fund has been authorized on completion of draft report, as provided in their contract".
On a motion by CJ/RS: **"WCC approves reimbursing K. Demers \$45.92 for hardware for bridge repair at FRP". Unanimous vote.**
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition:**
 1. PA reported that at their 7/19/21 meeting, the BOS reached consensus that inclusion of a tax waiver for the Daniel Talmadge Estate parcel, as well as the mechanics of executing such while the Town is applying for a 2021 DEEP Open Space grant, should be worked into the purchase and sales agreement.
 2. WCC will work with BOF and BOS to identify possible closing timeline to be included in the purchase and sales agreement document related to the Daniel W. Talmadge Estate acquisition.
 3. **On a motion by KD/ CJ: "The Willington Conservation Commission recommends that the Town acquire from the Estate of Daniel W. Talmadge, 16 +/- acres of forested land in southeast Willington with frontage on Mason Road to be conserved as open space. Acquisition of this property is consistent with the Town of Willington's Plan of Conservation and Development (2018 -2028). This parcel is a high priority for open space acquisition and natural resource protection. Such land is contiguous with other preserved open space in Town and offers multiple resource values by expanding drinking water supply and watershed**

protection, forest preservation, climate resiliency, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for passive recreation.” Unanimous vote.

4. The revised draft letter of support from WCC for the DEEP OS grant will be reviewed and voted on at the next WCC meeting. KD & CJ are working on additional aspects of the grant application.
5. **On a motion by KD/PA: “WCC authorizes C. Jordan as the representative of WCC at the August 3, 2021 Town Meeting with regard to Items I and II of the call concerning funding for purchase of Talmadge Estate property on Mason Road. C. Jordan will compose a fact sheet presenting the rationale for why this property would be beneficial to the residents as an Open Space Parcel and actions taken to date by the Town and its agencies with regard to the acquisition.” Unanimous vote.**

B. Properties Management

1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:

A boardwalk bridge on the Taylor Pond Trail, which was washed away last week by stormwaters, was replaced by BS, KD and her spouse Chris. The Ruby Trail sign which includes a map of the trail was noted as missing from the trailhead. N. Jones who attended the meeting as an interested citizen offered to install a temporary sign until a new one is available.

2. Connwood Forest Management Plan: WCC started its review of the draft FRP & DS 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan provided by Connwood. Review will continue next meeting. Suggested edits and comments will be submitted to Connwood prior to finalizing the plan.

3. Maintenance: KD reported on the 2 hybrid chestnut trees that were planted in the FRP several years ago. They are doing very well; one has flowers this year. To optimize pollination it was suggested that we plant 2 more chestnut trees.

4. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract: Tabled

C. Town Development: (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) NA

D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication: NA

E. Other: The list of the Daley Award recipients posted on the Town’s website needs to be updated to reflect the latest recipients.

VII. New Business

A. Communications: See attached Notice and Warning: Special Town Meeting

B. Other: NA

VIII. Next Meeting: August 18, 2021

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

Minutes submitted by Marilyn Schreiber, Recording Secretary

**TOWN OF WILLINGTON
NOTICE AND WARNING
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

The electors of the Town of Willington and all persons who are entitled to vote in Town Meeting on the matters mentioned in the following warning are hereby warned and notified to meet in Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall; 11 Common Road, , Willington, at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 for the following purpose:

ITEM I

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation \$60,000 from the Open Space fund for the costs associated with the purchase of the Talmadge Estate property on Mason Rd, including the survey and legal fees.

ITEM II

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$101,000 from the Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase of the Talmadge Estate property on Mason Rd..

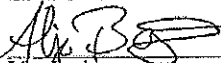
ITEM III

To see if the townspeople, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance, will authorize the appropriation of \$123,500 from the American Rescue Plan Fund for the purpose of Air Conditioning replacement at the Senior Center (\$35,000), Remote and hybrid meeting room electronic equipment (\$28,500), TOB basement cleaning and concrete (\$7,500) and TOB purifiers (2,500).

Dated at Willington,
This 19th day of July, 2021.

Willington Board of Selectmen:


Erika G. Wieceński


Liza Boritz


John Blessington

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WILLINGTON, CT.

2021 JUL 20 A 9:54


TOWN CLERK