

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday December 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM
[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:06 pm by Chairman P.Andersen
- II. Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, J. Kulig were present. On a motion by KD/PA, alternate N. Jones was seated for M.Schreiber; Unanimous vote.
- III. Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2021 meeting:** On a motion by CJ/NJ: **“The minutes of November 17, 2021 be approved as written.** Motion carried. JK abstained.
- IV. Present to Speak:** n/a
- V. Finance:** Treasurer’s Report: CJ reported on the following November expenditures: \$180.99 for bridge building materials purchased at O.L. Willards; \$100 for CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) membership; and \$60 for CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC) membership. YTD budget expenditure is \$386.91 and balance is \$1,113.09.
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:**

KD noted that the BOS awarded the A-2 survey contract to Gardner and Peterson Associates, LLC for a bid of \$12,800. The survey should be completed before the end of April 2022. PA has notified the sellers about the award and that the surveyor will be accessing the property.
 - B. Properties Management**
 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:
 - a) Members discussed options to move the viewing platform back to pond edge, including CJ’s suggestion to involve local Boy Scout Troop, (originally an Eagle Scout Project). PA noted that some engineering input may be needed to move & secure it properly.
 - b) KD reported that 6x6 timbers were installed to raise the height of the previously washed-out bridge on Taylor Pond Trail.
 - c) KD reported contractor Brenda Wildes said hayfield mowing was delayed this summer due to water on the farthest field and across the access road. Fields have recently been mowed.
 - d) Ongoing items: i) Phragmites control plan is to do repeat cuttings next spring/summer/fall; ii) Ruby Trail sign and post needs replacement.
 2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:
 - a) Trail parking lot on Mason Road: After reviewing the lot’s features with WCC members on 11-21-21, PA has asked Public Works to remove the rock/tree barrier at their convenience, so that Town’s larger plow can remove snow during storm. Until then, Town’s smaller plow can be used to remove snow a few days after storm.

- b) Bridge Replacement: On 11-21-21, six WCC members and two volunteers replaced the 25 foot stream bridge on the Talmadge Spur Trail which was washed away by flooding this summer.
- c) Talmadge Spur Trail was re-blazed with paint on 11-21-21 by WCC.
- d) "Trail Crossing" signs at Knowlton/Talmadge trailheads: CJ will investigate availability/cost and report back.
- e) DEEP acknowledgement sign on Knowlton Preserve by parking lot: MS will investigate availability/cost for a new sign and report back.

C. Park and Preserve Maintenance Responsibilities and Costs for the Future:

PA/KD are scheduled to review WCC concerns/needs with First Selectwoman on 12/17/21.

D. Town Development: (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) No new reports.

E. Collaborative Organization News & Communication: n/a

F. Membership: PA reported that regular member J. Cartabiano and alternate M. Drobney have resigned. PA asked alternate N. Jones if she might want to be nominated as a regular member; she will consider it at next meeting. CJ reported that her reappointment letter has an incorrect reappointment date of 12-16-21. It should be 12-1-21. PA will discuss with Town Clerk.

G. Election of Officers for 2022: Per last month's meeting vote, K. Demers will be Chairperson; C. Jordan will be Treasurer. No nominations offered for Vice Chair or Secretary.

H. Schedule for 2022: KD/CJ moved that: **"WCC meetings continue to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in 2022."** Unanimous vote.

I. Other: n/a

VII. New Business

A. Communications:

- 1) Cell Tower on Daleville Road: Siting Counsel requested comments on company's plan to increase height of tower by 56 feet. No action taken.
- 2) UCONN Extension: Looking for assist to get the word out about "Growing Connected Program" & "Guide to Farm Fresh Food" to support local agriculture. J. Kulig will write up information to include in spring issue of Willington Wire.

B. Other: 1) CIP- The WCC does not plan to make any requests for FY 2022-2023.


- 2) WCC 2022-23 budget - tabled until next meeting. PA and CJ will send WCC members a copy of 2021-2022 budget and past budget expenses prior to next meeting to stimulate discussion on upcoming budget request.

- 3) CJ suggested WCC consider placing "New Business" before "Old Business" items in upcoming agendas. No action taken.

VIII. Next Meeting: January 19, 2022 via Zoom

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by K. Demers, secretary pro tem

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