

# Conservation Commission

## Town of Willington

### Minutes

Wednesday January 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM

[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:06 pm by Chairman K.Demers
- II. **Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, J. Kulig, R.Shabot, were present. Absent M.Schreiber. Alternate N. Jones was seated for M.Schreiber and alternate P.Phillips seated in the unfilled regular seat.
- III. **Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2021 meeting:** On a motion by RS/PA: **"The minutes of December 15, 2021 be approved as written."** Motion carried. RS abstained.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** n/a
- V. **Finance:** Treasurer's Report: No new expenditures. A \$9.05 rebate from a previous purchase makes current expenditures \$377.86 and a balance of \$1122.14.
- VI. **Old Business**
  - A. **Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:**

KD noted that the DEEP grant status remains the same: The application is in and the survey will be completed this spring.
  - B. **Properties Management**
    1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:
      - a) KD noted that she and C Demers replaced the missing Ruby Trail sign post on Burma Rd. Discussion of replacement trail signs.
      - b) PP noted at one visit the parking lot was full of cars and that the trails were icy but open.
    2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:
      - a) Following the discussion at the last meeting, DPW followed up and removed the trees and rocks between the parking lot and Mason Rd to facilitate snow plowing and subsequently have been plowing the lot. KD voiced the Commission's thanks and appreciation in an email to 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman, to PW, and publicly at a BOS meeting.
      - b) Signage:
        - 1) DEEP acknowledgement sign on Knowlton Preserve at Knowlton/ Talmadge trail heads: Waiting for a cost quote.
        - 2) A missing trail sign at the Nipmuck Trail on Marsh Rd will be replaced.
        - 3) Discussion of future signs needed pending acquisition of Talmadge addition.
  - C. **Park and Preserve Maintenance Responsibilities and Costs for the Future:**

KD and PA met with 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman E Wiczenski to discuss WCC concerns re maintenance and supervision of parks and other preserved properties, facilities, and Town-owned easement properties. KD has received information from organizations in other towns regarding how they manage these responsibilities. Options of ways to recruit and engage volunteers were discussed. Making these needs known led to discussion of how the Town could/should establish more comprehensive ways to communicate Town news and information to all citizens. KD and PA will draft some information regarding volunteering that can be communicated to the public and get back to the Commission. Exploration of these issues will be ongoing.

- D. **Town Development:** (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) No new reports.
- E. **Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** KD shared a communication from the Thames River Basin Partnership (of which Willington by virtue of the Fenton and Willimantic Rivers being within the Thames River Basin) regarding the importance of parcel connectivity in creating pollinator pathways. Organizations in various towns have outreach programs for citizen participation to establish pollinator-friendly parcels of land.
- F. **Membership:** CJ/NJ motion: **"The Conservation Commission recommends to the Bd of Selectmen that Patricia Phillips appointment to the Commission be changed from Alternate Member to Regular Member in order to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Julia Cartabiano."** Unanimous.
- G. **Officers for 2022:** The positions of vice-chair and secretary remain open.
- H. **2022 – 2023 Budget:** RS/PA motion: **"The budget for 2022-2023 should be \$1500."** That budget amount has been the same for the past 9 years. CJ will draw up the request with justifications for activities to present to the Bd of Finance.
- I. **Other:** n/a

**VII. New Business**

- A. **Communications:** KD noted that a letter from two citizens was sent to the First Selectwoman expressing their appreciation for the Knowlton/Talmadge trail parking area on Mason Road and for the outdoor recreational opportunities that Willington provides.
- B. **Other:** n/a

**VIII. Next Meeting:** February 16, 2022 via Zoom

**IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by P.Andersen, secretary pro tem

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