

WILLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

9/19/2018

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order @ 7:05 pm.

Roll Call: J. Cartabiano, K. Demers, M. Drobney, C. Jordan, M. Schreiber, R. Shabot

On a motion by CJ/RS, J. Kulig was seated for P. Andersen. Unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes of 7/18/18: Minutes were approved on a motion by CG/RS: 6 ayes and 1 abstain: MD.

Present to Speak: R. Belair was at the meeting to become more familiar with the Conservation Committee. There were introductions and a discussion about open space acquisition strategies.

Finance: CJ shared information about our membership with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. CJ will report back on the status of the Willimantic River Alliance's membership renewal policy.

Old Business/Status Reports

A. Open space land considerations: Tabled.

B. Properties Management

1. Fenton-Ruby Park/Drobney Sanctuary:

- The "Dunstan" chestnut trees that were recently planted in FRP-DS are thriving.
- R. Shabot managed the invasive grass species in the MU8 Tree Harvest area and will watch for future growth.
- The bat house in the picnic area is tilting and needs to be repositioned.
- The MU8 Tree Harvest area needs attention to remove some sediment from the uphill sides of the water bars so that they can continue to function by slowing down water and trapping sediment
- KD will canvass members for dates and activities for a Work Day in FRP-DS.

2. Knowlton Preserve/Talmadge Tract: The following is a quote from the 8/20/2018 Board of Selectman Meeting minutes. "Last week, we received a call that 12-5 gallon buckets of hydraulic fuel had been dumped into the waterway of the Talmadge Tract on Mason Road. All but 3 had leaked. DEEP, Public Works and WFD #1 had been called out to assist with clean up. Troop C was also called out, but unfortunately, no arrests were made, because they were not able to trace or obtain any evidence of who could have done it. First Selectman Wicewski stated that this could have easily been taken to the Transfer Station for free- there was no need for anyone to do such a thing."

B. Easement/property monitoring: WCC will set a November date for an easement monitoring site visit to Town of Willington open space property located on Luchon Road. Protocol and procedures for the visit will be maintained.

D. Town Development: Mr. Belair gave an update on the Love's Travel Stop project

E. Love's Travel Stop: Post Hearing Status: KD and Mr. Belair gave an update on DEEP's post hearing filing date for the evidentiary hearing concerning the Wastewater Treatment System at Love's Travel Stop. The filing date has been further extended. The Hearing Officer will then make a recommendation to DEEP and Love's Travel Stop on their Wastewater Treatment System.

F. Collaborative Organizations: The Ashford Conservation Commission has invited the WCC to join them on 10/11/18 from 1-3pm for meeting with Jessica Wikle Quiet Corner Initiative Manager and Nick Olson, Yale Forest manager.

G. CT Land Conservation Council Membership: See Finance.

H. Willington Wire Submission: The Commission plans to submit information about the November State Ballot Question related to the proposed Constitutional Amendment to strengthen protection of public lands in CT.

New Business

A. Communications: S. Jorgensen, former Land Use Coordinator sent a thank you note concerning her retirement get together in July, 2018.

B. Other: MD/RS moved to add agenda item: "Proposed Constitutional Amendment Related to Public Lands". On a motion by CJ/JK: **The Willington Conservation Commission supports the proposed amendment to the Consitution of the State of Connecticut to strengthen protection of public lands which will appear on the ballot at the November 6, 2018, general election.**" Unanimous vote

Next Meeting: 10/17/2018

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 8:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Marilyn Schreiber, Recording Secretary