

**Conservation Commission**  
**Town of Willington**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday November 17, 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, M. Schreiber, & R. Shabot were present. On a motion by RS/CJ, alternate N. Jones was seated for J. Cartabiano; Unanimous vote. P. Phillips joined the meeting at 7:15 pm and on a motion by CJ/RS she was seated for J. Kulig; Unanimous vote.
- III. Approval of Minutes of Oct 20, 2021 meeting:** On a motion by KD/RS: **"The minutes of October 20, 2021 be approved with one correction that C. Jordan was not present during October meeting."** Motion carried. CJ abstained.
- IV. Present to Speak:** n/a
- V. Finance:** Treasurer's Report: No new expenditures. WCC budget balance is \$1454.08. On a motion by CJ/KD: **"WCC authorizes that annual membership dues be renewed for CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions (CACIWC) and \$100 for CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC)."** Unanimous vote.
- VI. Old Business**
  - A. Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:**

KD and CJ noted that the sales agreement between the Town and sellers has been signed and the DEEP Open Space grant application has been submitted. Jackie Kulig's assistance with preparing maps for the application was acknowledged and appreciated.
  - B. Properties Management**
    - 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:
      - a) P. Phillips noted Park trails she walked recently are in good shape.
      - b) Discussed ideas to move viewing platform back in place by pond.
      - c) Phragmites control plan -Try repeat cuttings next spring/summer/fall.
      - d) Ruby Trail sign and post need to be replaced on Burma Road.
      - e) Park & Rec Dept hosting Turkey Scavenger Hunt at the Park this month.
      - f) Hayfields were not mowed this season. Reason unclear, but may be due to access problem since water runs/pools in low spot on access path at times. Discussed possible options to address this issue.
    - 2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:
      - a) Maintenance: PA outlined Mason Rd parking lot plowing options offered by Troy from PW; WCC will consider after reviewing parking lot features.
      - b) Bridge Replacement: On 11-21-21, WCC members will replace the stream bridge on the Talmadge Spur Trail which was washed away by flood waters this summer. MS and her husband donated an aluminum extension ladder to use as part of the platform, but additional materials will be needed. On a motion by CJ/RS: **"WCC authorizes the purchase of materials to replace the bridge on the Talmadge Spur Trail."** Unanimous vote. PA will purchase materials from O.L. Willards.

- c) New Talmadge signs: Tabled until know outcome of DEEP grant application.
- d) DEEP acknowledgement sign on Knowlton Preserve by parking lot: MS will investigate availability/cost for a new sign and report back.
- e) "Trail Crossing" signs at Knowlton/Talmadge trailheads: CJ suggested pedestrian safety crossing signs be placed on Mason Road by the parking lot and also by Nipmuck Trail crossing. She will investigate availability/cost and report back.

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

WCC discussed need for more physical/financial resources to manage/maintain trails and other features at Fenton Ruby Park and Knowlton Preserve/Talmadge Tract. WCC members have been doing most of the work for many years and agree this is no longer sustainable. CJ suggested trying to get more park users to volunteer. PA/KD noted that only 3 people responded this summer when signs posted at the Park and info posted in Willington Wire. Also very limited response from "Friends of the Park" 60-person email list when WCC requested help with past Park work days. PA/KD will request meeting with the First Selectwoman to discuss concerns/needs.

- D. Town Development:** (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) RS reported that a \$3,900 fee-in-lieu of open space can be expected related to a recent subdivision approved by PZC on Hancock Road.
- E. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** n/a
- F. Membership:** In October, BOS appointed Nora Jones and Patty Phillips as WCC alternates. In November, BOS approved reappointment of regular members C. Jordan and J. Kulig, as well as alternate M.Drobney.
- G. Election of Officers for 2022:** PA would like to step down as chair for personal reasons. On a motion by RS/PA: **"Nominate Kathy Demers as Chairman and Carol Jordan as Treasurer."** Unanimous vote. PA asked members to consider nominations for Vice Chair and Secretary. None noted; consider again next mtg.
- H. Schedule for 2022:** CJ/KD suggested WCC consider moving meetings from third Wednesday of the month to an earlier date in the month to allow more time, if needed, to request getting on BOS or BOF agendas. Members noted earlier Wednesday would work for them. PA will check if an alternative timeslot available at TOB, should we resume in-person meetings.
- I. Meeting Format:** Remote vs in-person meetings discussed. On a motion by CJ/PP: **"WCC will continue to meet remotely through the winter months."** Unanimous vote.
- J. Other:** 1) PA reported Daley Award information on WCC website was updated.  
2) Cadlerock property has transferred to the Town of Willington. BOS addressing pending litigation issue from past owners. CT Forest and Park Association has expressed interest in getting a conservation easement placed on the Nipmuck Trail that passes through property. WCC could consider supporting this once litigation issue settled.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Communications:** n/a

- B. Other:** 1) CIP- no request planned for FY 2022-2023. There is potential for a DEEP Open Space grant award in 2022.
- 2) WCC's 2022-23 budget request - tabled until next meeting.

**VIII. Next Meeting:** December 15, 2021 via Zoom

**IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

TOWN OF WILLINGTON, CT

Received for record November 19, 21

At 11:04 AM Rmy

Minutes submitted by K. Demers, secretary pro tem