

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday April 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM
[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:07 pm by Chairperson K.Demers
- II. **Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Regular members P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, P.Phillips, M.Schreiber, R.Shabot, N. Jones; Absent J.Kulig
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by CJ/RS: **"The minutes of regular meeting March 16, 2022 be approved as written."** Unanimously approved. On a motion by CJ/RS: **"The minutes of special meeting March 23, 2022 be approved as written."** Unanimously approved. On a motion by CJ/RS: **"The minutes of special meeting March 25, 2022 be approved as written."** Unanimously approved.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** Girl Scout leader Hanna Prytko and troop member Helena Prytko of Troop 67079 in Willington gave a presentation describing a project to be undertaken by the girl scouts to establish a pollinator pathway garden at the edge of the picnic area in Fenton-Ruby Park sometime later in the spring when plants become available. Helena did an excellent job on the presentation and presented a list of costs for the project which approximated \$250. Commission members complimented on, voiced support for, and thanked them for their presentation.
- V. **Finance:** Treasurer's Report: No new expenditures. Balance remains at \$1122.14 with \$150 encumbered for a presenter at a nature walk at FRP on June 4.
- VI. **Old Business**
 - A. **Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application:** The survey has been completed and the Town is awaiting the final documents.
 - B. **Properties Management**
 - 1. **Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:**
 - a) Several Commission members and members of Public Works with an excavator, on April 4, moved the fishing platform/observation deck back onto a foundation at the edge of the beaver pond and regraded the area around the near-by picnic table and the platform with pea stone. The platform had been displaced by high water last July. Also, with the help of PW and the equipment, the large stone with the bronze plaques by the parking area was straightened up.
 - 2. **Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract:** Discussion took place regarding placement of signs marking the trail crossings on Mason Road. Decision to revisit the subject at a later date.
 - C. **New Trail Stewards:** Volunteer stewards have been appointed for all the hiking trails in Fenton-Ruby Park, Knowlton Preserve and Talmadge Tract.
 - D. **Park Work Day:** Will be held on Saturday April 23 from 9:30 until noon. Volunteers from the Town and the Commission and boy scouts from Troop 82 will work to rebuild some bridges and work on clearing the field areas of brush. Refreshments will be provided. (Members of Troop 82 will be camping out in the Park on Friday and Saturday nights near the area of the recent timber harvest.)
On a motion by KD/PA, **"The Commission will appropriate up to \$600.00 to purchase bridge building materials for the workday."** Unanimous vote.
 - E. **Town Development:** No news.

- F. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** No news.
- G. Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives:** Pursuant to the presentations made by the Girl Scout representatives under "Present to Speak", the Commission voted on a motion by KD/CJ, **"To support the Girl Scout's pollinator pathway project by appropriating up to \$250.00 for plants and materials from local garden centers as selected by the scouts."** Unanimous vote.
- H. Nature Walk at FRP – June 4:** Barbara Austin will lead a nature walk from 1:00 -3:00 pm. Information about the free event can be found on the Conservation Comm. website under "Activities and Events". Registration for the hike can be made on the Parks and Recreation website. The number of participants is limited to 20.
- I. ARPA Request:** KD noted she presented the CC's \$2800 request for the Knowlton /Talmadge properties' 10 year forest management plan update and \$3500 to replace trail bridges and boardwalks on town open space. The ARPA committee voted to forward the request to town meeting.
KD noted she has not yet submitted the Commission's \$1200 request for a DR trimmer/mower since the model discussed did not have a self-propelled feature as first thought. Further discussion was held about the feasibility of purchasing and maintaining a walk-behind mower/trimmer for park/preserve field maintenance. Members felt rental might be better option. On a motion by CJ/RS, **"The Commission will not submit its original ARPA request for \$1200 to purchase a mower/trimmer as previously voted on at the March 25th special meeting."** Unanimous vote.
- J. Other:** n/a
- VII. New Business**
- A. Communications:** Mark Palmer, Town Historian, provided some historical background on an approximate 30-acre parcel of land on Jared Sparks Road that could be considered for preservation should the opportunity avail itself. The property is of historical significance as it contains remnants of the Jared Sparks homestead. The Commission discussed some of the features of the property which already abuts a 20-acre parcel which the Town owns.
- B. Other:** KD stated she has been working with Tish Ignatowicz, Town webmaster, to update information on the Commission website and is thankful for her help.
- VIII. Next Meeting:** May 18, 2022
- IX. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by P.Andersen, secretary pro tem

RECEIVED
WILLINGTON, CT.

2022 APR 25 P 1:16


TOWN CLERK