

WILLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 17, 2021 (Remote Meeting via Zoom)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order @ 7:40 PM due to technical difficulties with Zoom platform.

Roll Call/Seating of Alternates: P. Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, R. Shabot, J. Kulig.

Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2021: On a motion by KD/RS the minutes of 2/17/21 were approved as written. 3 Ayes; 2 abstentions.

Present to Speak: NA

Finance: No new expenditures. The CC's 2021-22 budget request of \$1500 has been presented to the BOF.

Old Business/Status Reports:

A. Mason Road Open Space Acquisition Update: CC discussed the latest information about the DEEP Open Space Grant program. On Feb 24th, DEEP announced the awards for last year's applicants. Due to the large pool of applicants, matching grants were only 30% or 40%, rather than the 50% seen in other years. DEEP plans to have a public comment period about the grant process during March. The next OS grant round is likely to be announced May 2021, applications will be due by Oct 2021 and awards will be announced during spring 2022. PA/KD will update the BOF, BOS and prospective seller about the new timelines.

B. Fenton-Ruby Mgmt. Plan update: Waiting for a Town Meeting to approve use of Park and Rec funds to contract with Connwood Foresters.

C. Knowlton /Talmadge Mgmt. Plan. JK has done some calculations of the timber volumes that might be expected if the patch cuts and thinning, as recommended in the current plan, were undertaken. The CC will continue discussion at next meeting.

D. Easement Property monitoring: JK provided easement monitoring services on the Daleville School property (last done in 2009). Was joined in her walk by an abutter. Had difficulty establishing all the boundaries due to the swamp, but did not notice any obvious encroachments. Plans to do Pinecrest property next.

E. Properties Management:

1. Fenton Ruby/ Drobney Sanctuary: Trails and parking lot have been very busy due to more people recreating outdoors during the pandemic. CJ will make a flyer to post in the kiosk with directions to the Knowlton/Talmadge trails on Mason Road so people know about other hiking options in Town.

2. Knowlton Preserve/ Talmadge Tract: Tabled

3. Trail Maps: JK has added QR codes to the trail maps and will have vinyl copies made at Anything Printed which will be mounted at the trail heads on the FRP/DS as well the K/T properties.

F. Town Development: PZC minutes noted that Love's plans to break ground this spring. Still waiting for DEEP permits.

G. Collaborative Organizations: Tabled

H. Future WCC park and trail maintenance responsibility: PA requested an appointment with First Selectman to discuss long-term park/trail maintenance issues. PA posted request for park/trail volunteers in Willington Wire. KD put up flyers at FRP and Knowlton/Talmadge properties requesting volunteer help.

I. Daley Award: Tabled.

J. Other: KD thanked Tish Ignatowicz for her help in updating some items on the CC website.

New Business

A. Correspondence: NA

B. Other: JK noted the Willington Farm Tour will be held in June. They would appreciate CC's sponsorship. Plan to discuss at next CC meeting.

Next Meeting: April 21, 2021

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:43 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Demers, Secretary

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TOWN CLERK