

Conservation Commission
Town of Willington

Minutes

Wednesday September 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM
[Remote Meeting via Zoom]

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:04pm by chairman P.Andersen
- II. Roll Call / Seating of Alternates** P.Andersen, K. Demers, C. Jordan, M. Schreiber, R. Shabot, J. Kulig
- III. Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2021 meeting. Approved unanimously.**
- IV. Present to Speak:** Visitors N. Jones, P. Phillips
- V. Finance:** Treasurer's Report: FY expenditures stand at \$45.92, balance \$1454.08
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Talmadge Estate Property Acquisition/DEEP grant application**
 - 1. DEEP has extended the grant application deadline from Sept. 30 to Oct. 31 due to the inability of some towns to get appraisals done and the unavailability of DEEP's scoring sheet for parcel and application criteria.
 - 2. **On a motion by RS/MS the Commission voted unanimously to authorize KD and CJ to represent the Commission in advising the First Selectwoman and the Town attorney with regard to the purchase and sales agreement.** CJ, KD, and PA will review the document.
 - 3. KD has been working on the various sections of the application; CJ has been working on the purchase and sales agreement; JK has developed the maps delineating the location of the parcel relative to currently conserved properties and also its relationship to important natural resources.
 - B. Properties Management**
 - 1. Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary:
 - a) Connwood Forest Management Plan: KD submitted the Commission's requested edits to the forester. An edited document was received but still needs further minor changes. **On a motion by RS/KD, the Commission voted unanimously to approve and accept the *Fenton-Ruby Park and Drobney Sanctuary 2021 – 2031 Forest Management Plan* pending the final edits and to approve the payment of the \$2500 balance of the \$4500 fee also pending those edits.**
 - b) Maintenance: A recently replaced bridge on the Taylor Trail was again washed out in another storm and was re-situated by Chris Demers. Some discussion was held on the construction of more substantial piers.

c) Discussion was held regarding the eradication of a small patch of highly invasive phragmites plants at the entrance brook to Taylor Pond. Various eradication techniques and possible funding requirements were discussed. RS will look for information from the UConn agricultural extension office and possibly from other towns that may have dealt with this issue. It is important that we try to remove these plants because they could easily take over the entire pond and completely choke out all other plants and much of the aquatic life.

2. Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Tract: Replacement of the missing bridge on the Talmadge Trail will be addressed later in the fall.

C. Town Development: (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) RS reported that site development of Love's Travel Center continues; RS reported that a small subdivision on Hancock Rd will likely result in the Town receiving a "fee-in-lieu-of" instead of an open space set-aside.

D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication: PA noted that the Commission received a letter of support for the DEEP application from Joshua's Trust.

E. Other: NA

VII. New Business

A. Communications: PA received a note of thanks from Representative Tammy Nuccio for the opportunity to help out in our Park workday in the spring. She commented what a beautiful park it is and expressed appreciation for the work that the Commission puts into it.

B. Other: Discussion was held regarding future necessary funding for park and preserve maintenance and for the need to look for what other options might have to be employed to carry out that maintenance rather than volunteer (and aging) Commission members.

VIII. Next Meeting: October 20, 2021 via Zoom

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Minutes submitted by P. Andersen, secretary pro tem

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TOWN CLERK