

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2010

Members in attendance:

D. Leavenworth
I. Davis
C. Volage
J. King

Members absent:

D. Hutton
(one position unfilled)

Also attending: Lori Hart, Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee; Sharon Feeley, Open Space Subcommittee; Gerald Stomski, First Selectman; Catherine Adsitt, Town Planner; Ed Cole, interested citizen.

Chairman Leavenworth called the meeting to order at 8:05. A quorum was established.

Minutes – C. Volage moved to accept the December meeting minutes, J. King seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

New Business – Plan of Conservation and Development – D. Leavenworth reported that many comments were discussed at the special meeting of the Conservation Commission on Dec. 30, and that a letter of recommended changes/additions/deletions was sent to the Planning Commission. One item of concern was a reduction of open space requirements in the draft. D. Leavenworth said the Conservation Commission and Open Space subcommittee felt very strongly that the 20% open space goal for 2020 should still be in place. The public hearing on the POCD has closed. The Planning Commission is still working on the final details.

Subcommittee reports

Open Space – S. Feeley said the subcommittee is almost finished with an inventory of open space in town. There are about 195 parcels with open space designations, although all are not permanently protected. The group is separating these out. Ms. Feeley passed around a draft of the 18 goals the Open Space Subcommittee has set for itself for 2010. The list includes a data

base of properties, formal participation in the subdivision application process, supporting Flanders, May 22 land use training for subcommittee members, a monitoring plan for open space properties, hosting walks, Earth Day participation, National and Regional resources use, recruiting active members, educating the public on open space value, determining protection opportunities offered by Orenaug Hills, riparian corridor walkways/access, a half-mil tax for open space acquisition, documenting a plan for Castle Rock, O&G open space acquisition, and advocating for the 20% open space acquisition. D. Leavenworth asked if the Subcommittee would be prioritizing potential acquisitions. Discussion took place about O&G property and potential trails to Southbury in the future. Ms. Feeley said the Open Space Subcommittee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 in the Shove Building, and that all are welcome.

Nonnewaug Falls – L. Hart reported that Mr. Stomski and Boy Scout Joseph Pistritto walked the property with subcommittee members to discuss an Eagle Scout project. Mr. Pistritto proposed working on an information kiosk at the entry, trail markers at selected areas and perhaps some informational markers about plants or wildlife. Mr. Pistritto will be invited to the next Commission meeting to discuss his plans. Ms. Hart said the Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee is making recommendations to the Selectmen on the upcoming farm lease bid. She said they recommend having an information session for bidders, with information and expectations for the property stewardship detailed. Ms. Hart asked what to do about a tree that had fallen over the entrance. D. Leavenworth said to inform the Selectmen or Public Works and the town should take care of it. S. Feeley suggested asking Park and Rec. Director J. Miller how they handle property maintenance on a regular basis. Ms. Hart noted that there has been less snowmobile/ATV activity in the last month.

Energy – The Energy Subcommittee, said First Selectman Stomski, is currently operating in conjunction with the Public Building Commission due to the types of energy saving (windows, building efficiencies) with which they are working. As their focus changes to include other energy issues, Mr. Stomski said he can see the Subcommittee perhaps functioning as its own Committee reporting directly to the Selectmen. D. Leavenworth said the Conservation Commission will take the Energy Subcommittee off the regular agenda list.

Old Business

Pollution Issues - Chairman Leavenworth received a copy of the report issued to DEP by the Shell Station regarding the spill and remediation from several years back. The remediation effort appears to have been successful. Mr. Leavenworth reviewed some of the past contamination sites and their known statuses.

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition - The PRWC hosted a presentation at the Woodbury Library last Tuesday about what is currently before the State legislature regarding stream flow regulations.

Correspondence

None.

Privilege of the Floor – First Selectman Stomski said he is beginning a discussion about reusing or recycling the wood chip debris at the Recycling Center.

C. Volage said she will try to mail the Homeowners' Brochure with the spring Shade Tree Committee mailing.

January Agenda – Discussion with Joseph Pistritto about Nonnewaug Falls project, Spring Town-Wide Cleanup.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda G. Kaelin
Clerk