

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2010

Members in attendance:

D. Leavenworth
I. Davis
D. Hutton
J. King
C. Samoska

Members absent:

C. Volage
(one position unfilled)

Also attending: Gerry Stomski, First Selectman; Pat Traver, Linda and Steve Casper, Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee; Sharon Feeley, Open Space Subcommittee; Jeff Sherman, guest.

Chairman Leavenworth called the meeting to order at 8:04. A quorum was established.

Minutes – I. Davis moved to accept the March meeting minutes, J. King seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

Privilege of the Floor – First Selectman Stomski spoke about some of the issues regarding safety at the Falls, especially of the stewards. He read a memo from the Police Department regarding unauthorized activity and reporting such to the police (memo attached). He noted that recommendations from the subcommittee for keeping the property safe and in good condition are encouraged by the Selectmen as part of stewardship.

New Business

Spring Town-Wide Cleanup Summary – C. Samoska sent an e-mail about the cleanup to some people she knows to find out why the attendance was not improving at the cleanups. She assembled some of the feedback in a memo (attached). Ms. Samoska suggested sending e-mail reminders/flyers. She also noted that some people did not know Adopt-A-Road and the cleanup day were part of the same effort. Perhaps a new name or tying into Earth Day might spark interest. She also suggested a family event like a picnic and band, or an educational seminar about the natural features of Woodbury or native plants. Flyers can be sent home with elementary students as reminders. The group also discussed just having the cleanup once per year. C. Samoska will talk with C. Volage to see what steps they want to take for the next cleanup.

Invasive Plants – C. Samoska spoke about a preliminary review of the invasive Akebia at Orenaug Park. The climbing vine is in the trees and in the rock of the stone walls. The

Pomperaug Garden Club clears its garden area there each year, but they do not have the manpower to tackle the invasive. It has grown down to the pond area and all around. Ms. Samoska did locate a grant through the Forestry Division of DEP that could help pay to hire personnel for clearing the plants, as this is too labor intensive a project for a small volunteer group. A memo about the subject is included with the minutes as an attachment. To secure the grant, several conditions must be met, including identifying a plant to replace the one removed. D. Leavenworth said he thinks the Commission should go forward with trying to get the grant. S. Feeley noted that perhaps Earth Tones could help identify proper natives for replacement and Mr. Stomski has a grant writer who can help with the grant. C. Samoska will pursue.

Subcommittee reports

Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee – see Privilege of the Floor, above.

Open Space - S. Feeley said a property on Minortown Road may be available for open space; a grant review is in the process. The approximately 25 acre property is agricultural land.

Old Business

Pollution Issues – No new report.

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition – New water testing plans through a Yale program/professor are in the process. The analysis of pharmaceuticals is a key piece of this study. D. Leavenworth reminded all to keep an eye out for situations in the watershed that may be

Correspondence – None.

May Agenda – Invasive Plants, Town-Wide Cleanup.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Wirtes, Clerk Pro Tem
Linda Kaelin, Clerk