

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 27, 2010

Members in attendance:

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

Members absent:

D. Hutton  
(one position unfilled)

Also attending: Ed Cole, guest.

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

Minutes – I. Davis moved to accept the April meeting minutes, C. Volage seconded. J. King noted that under the PRWC section, the last sentence seemed unfinished. L. Kaelin said it appeared to have been deleted inadvertently. The sentence should read “D. Leavenworth reminded all to keep an eye out for situations in the watershed that may be *indicative of a problem, and to notify him so the experts can be consulted.*” Minutes unanimously approved as amended.

**New Business**

Invasive Plants – C. Samoska spoke about a meeting she had with Dr. Murvosch at Orenaug Park. He said there was an herbicide containing Triclopyr that was safe for aquatic and other plants but would target the invasive Akebia. He also said certain mulches could be used safely in the area to keep the plants from returning. This would best be done in the fall. D. Leavenworth mentioned that there is also a lot of knotweed along the roadsides that could use attention. The America the Beautiful grant which was being investigated for this project is also the same grant that the Shade Tree Committee applies for, although Ms. Samoska noted that there are actually five different categories under which applications can be made. She said she will speak with First Selectman Stomski before proceeding. June 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for grant submission. D. Leavenworth also noted that there are two dead trees in the area that would need to be removed before any other activity could start. A complete area landscaping plan would be helpful to coordinate these efforts. D. Leavenworth suggested consulting with Kay Campbell from the Shade Tree Committee and the Park and Recreation Department.

Spring Town-Wide Cleanup Summary – Commissioners discussed some of the ideas previously brainstormed for increasing participation in the cleanups. C. Volage said she has tried most of the ideas, and that the cleanups over the past eleven years when she has been in charge have varied from about 40 to 100 participants. The timing was an issue this year because Easter fell

on the same weekend. Several Commissioners suggested tying in more closely to Earth Day in terms of the timing. Ms. Volage said it may be hard to move the date later because the weeds begin to grow up and it is much harder to pick the trash. Ms. Volage said that sometimes people with court-ordered community service requirements contact her and show up, but she is not sure how to contact this group. A suggestion was made that maybe the Rotary group would help with publicity/public relations related to the cleanup. D. Leavenworth suggested that a published thank-you letter be combined with a request for participation in the fall, maybe to run in September. There was also a suggestion that the scouts might help by sitting in front of LaBonnes to sign up participants ahead of time. C. Volage, C. Samoska and J. King will get together to discuss a plan.

Homeowners' Brochure – The group discussed reprinting the popular brochure. There are some in the library and C. Volage has a handful, but D. Leavenworth asked if a quote could be obtained for printing a couple thousand more copies. C. Volage said she would get the quote.

### **Subcommittee reports**

Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee – L. Hart reported that Mr. Stomski came to the last NFS meeting to discuss monitoring. The subcommittee asked the First Selectman if it may be possible to work with the contracted farmer to help clear some trails, as the grass has grown too high. Ms. Hart asked if there was any objection to rotating the chairmanship of the subcommittee. D. Leavenworth said no, but that the current group is doing a fine job. Ms. Hart said she will be meeting with the First Selectman to see if they can get some help from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (a branch of the Forest Service) on long-term planning regarding agricultural usage, removal of invasives and trail building. D. Leavenworth added that erosion control was also an issue.

Open Space – The Minortown Road property that may become available for purchase is a field near the bridge; D. Leavenworth suggested members drive by and take a look. The property would be for passive use and perhaps leased for agricultural use. The Town would apply for a grant for the purchase.

### **Old Business**

Pollution Issues – No report

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition – No report

Correspondence – None

Privilege of the Floor – I. Davis distributed copies of section 6 of the Town Charter, which deals with the Conservation Commission. She did not feel that any changes were required, but the deadline for response to the Charter Revision Committee was before the next scheduled Conservation Commission meeting. I. Davis and D. Leavenworth will meet to draft a response. A short discussion took place about the requirement for two members from the “minority party” and questions as to how this was implemented in practice.

C. Volage moved to adjourn. J. King seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kaelin, Clerk