

WOODBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2010

Members in attendance:

D. Leavenworth
I. Davis
J. King

Members absent:

D. Hutton
C. Samoska
C. Volage
(one position unfilled)

Also attending: Gerald Stomski, First Selectman; Barbara Perkinson, Selectman; Sharon Feeley, Open Space Subcommittee Chair; Lori Hart, Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee Chair.

Chairman Leavenworth called the meeting to order at 8:04. No quorum was established.

Minutes – May meeting minutes were reviewed and tabled until the next meeting.

New Business

Invasive Plants – First Selectman Stomski asked about the funding for the Orenaug Park clearing project. C. Samoska was not in attendance, but members thought that the grant had been applied for (in a separate category from the Shade Tree Committee) based on the discussions that took place between Ms. Samoska and the Selectmen. D. Leavenworth recommended looking into identifying some of the tree and plant species as part of the project. Mr. Stomski said he could help the Girl Scout volunteers with that. D. Leavenworth noted that there are also three prominent invasives at the Nonnewaug Falls Preserve that may require a plan for controlling. Mr. Stomski said that public education about invasives and their behavior could help the public control damaging species or identify their benefits. L. Hart noted that the farming contract is up next summer, and that the Town may want to consider including in the contract assistance with controlling invasives in the field area.

Homeowners' Brochure – No report.

July and August Meetings – D. Leavenworth said that, unless there was any objection or if any pressing issues arose during July and August, that the July and August Commission meetings would be cancelled for expected lack of quorum and all agenda items moved to the September meeting. No objections were made.

Subcommittee reports

Nonnewaug Falls Subcommittee – First Selectman Stomski said he has asked Dave Monckton

to have the large branches and stumps removed from the property, and this is in process. J. Chapman is putting the issue of damming of the falls area on the next Inland Wetlands meeting agenda. The fields have been hayed, so the issue of a trail is moot at present. Mr. Stomski reviewed the process for filing and posting agendas and minutes, which he said should be done by FOI rules even for an ad-hoc committee. L. Hart will review this with the subcommittee. D. Leavenworth suggested a review by the Conservation Commission with the NFS to look at the activities of the subcommittee, the Conservation Commission and the Selectman's office to make sure that efficient and appropriate communication is established. S. Feeley said that the NFS was set up under the Conservation Commission as a model for other properties for monitoring and attention. D. Leavenworth said he feels that the chairmanship should be determined as with other Commissions, at the first meeting of the year for the year. First Selectman Stomski also said the subcommittee should have a meeting schedule filed at the beginning of each year. L. Hart said she feels that increasing the number of members on the subcommittee would be a good idea. Mr. Stomski said that any prospective members should be invited to a subcommittee meeting, and if recommended by the subcommittee, their names should be brought to the Conservation Commission then to the Selectmen for the members to be appointed. Discussion was held about what should be included in the minutes, and Mr. Stomski iterated that it should be primarily a record of what is accomplished, any motions, agreements or decisions. He also noted that newer committees always go through a process of development and that the mission of the NFS is good and that they are doing a good job. D. Leavenworth suggested that both subcommittee chairs be on the Conservation Commission.

Open Space – S. Feeley said the Subcommittee is moving along, and that they reached a milestone by getting Council of Governments (COG) to input the new information found by the subcommittee members regarding easements and other restrictions. Now this information will show on the maps. Some questions have been raised about how the open space calculations should be made, such as whether the fifty foot road buffers should be included in the count.

Old Business

Pollution Issues – No report

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition – No report

Correspondence – None

Privilege of the Floor – Discussion was held about possible expansion of the scope of the NFS, and the inclusion of the subcommittee chairs on the Conservation Commission.

J. King moved to adjourn. I. Davis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kaelin, Clerk