

**Woodstock Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 15, 2008**

Meeting called to order: **7:35 pm**

Members Present: Suzanna Dwyer, Medora Fraga, Grace Jacobson, Jean Pillo, Lee Wesler, Bet Zimmerman

Members of the public present: none

The minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

The upcoming election for the WCC (January 2009) was discussed. Ideally the Secretary will be able to regularly attend scheduled monthly meetings. In the interim, that responsibility has been alternated among members. Chairman Pillo committed to the purchase of a tape recorder to assist the future Secretary in recording/compiling the WCC minutes. **Action:** Pillo to check with existing members to see if anyone wants to convert to an alternate to enable Jacobson to be a full member and possibly take an office.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing to report.

Communications:

- Letter from "Pavers by Ideal Concrete Block Co." regarding permeable pavers and options and prices for same. **Action:** Pillo to provide copies to new Town Highway Foreman.
- Letter from CT Dept. of Public Health regarding a Water Supply Plan update.
- Letter from CT Siting Council regarding Sherman Road cell tower. It contained a notice of a public hearing on January 29, 2008, starting at 3 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. at the Woodstock Town Hall.
- Letter from CT Dept. of Environmental Protection regarding discharge of YMCA/Black Pond sewage system. They have given tentative approval, pending the submission of a plan containing more information. **Action:** Pillo to request input on and submit comments if necessary.
- **Action:** All Commission members have been asked to sign off on the Town code of ethics and provide it to Julie Woodward.

DRC: No activity this month.

Open Space and Farmland Preservation: No Report.

Review of Changes to A Plan of Open Space and Conservation (APOSC): Another section of the WCC APOSC was reviewed and updated/edited. Fraga and others wish to see more clear language supporting requirements relating to setbacks from wetlands and waterways. Dwyer expressed strong interest in having "ecosystem services" language inserted into the APOSC text, as it relates to forested and open lands, and committed to procure "appropriate language" for this purpose. **Action:**

Zimmerman to post the APOSC draft online so that members can read and edit the present version at their convenience. (complete.)

Public Participation: None

Open Discussion:

- Zimmerman noted that the CT DEP has issued a 2008 a new list of “endangered, threatened and species of special concern” present Windham County. She has updated the WCC website with this info.
- Dwyer and Jacobson gave an overview of the Forest Forum at UCONN they attended. “Ecosystem services” provided by forested lands, the misperception that CT is more forested than it actually is, and unfair tax treatment of forested lands were the forum issues of most relevance for WCC purposes. Dwyer has asked Steve Broderick to present to the WCC, and key members of Woodstock municipal government, regarding the above issues. He has agreed. (The 2009 presentation will be open to the public.) Pillo noted that surrounding towns could be invited.
- Dwyer updated the WCC on the first meeting of the Green Energy Committee (GEC). Pillo asked that the GEC provide suggestions to the WCC regarding green energy language and recommendations that could be included in the upcoming revision of the APOSC. In addition, recommendations on appropriate siting of wind energy towers would be of particular interest. Dwyer will inform the WCC of upcoming presentations scheduled for the GEC where outside speakers are to present on subjects of mutual interest.
- Pillo wishes to extend an invitation to the GEC to participate in the May 9 event at Roseland Park. (Display, presentation, etc.)
- Wesler is waiting to hear from the boy scouts regarding participation at the 50-Acre Woods and Town Beach projects. (Alan Kelly had been contacted by Graham and Dwyer regarding the above projects and should be followed up with ASAP.)
- Pillo will be attending an Ag Plan workshop at the Last Green Valley Office. She will give a brief review at a future meeting.

Meeting adjourned: **9:35 pm**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Suzanna Dwyer. Note that minutes may be amended in the subsequent meeting.