

Minutes
Woodstock Conservation Commission
August 25, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Dziura-Duke, Fraga, Graham, Pillo, Wesler, Zimmerman

Members of the public: Dotti Durst (PZC) and Suzanna Dwyer

- **Motion to approve minutes** from 7/28 by Wesler, seconded by Pillo, approved except for Zimmerman abstained as she was not present at the last meeting.
- **Treasurer's report** deferred to next meeting
- **Communications:**
 - Invitation to Green Goals for Buildings in Our Community seminar on 9/17/08, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., by AIA CT. Fee \$20.
 - Siting Council letter dated 8/19/08 thanked the Conservation Commission for their comments on the proposed Verizon telecommunications facility on Sherman Road, but indicated they have not yet received an application for the project. Indicated they would retain the letter in the record as a written statement under the appropriate docket if an application is made.
- **Old Business and Comments from Public**
 - **PZC representative Durst** asked whether the Development Review Checklist should be updated, and inquired about the Natural Resource Inventory status, as PZC is reprinting the Zoning Regulations. Pillo noted that WCC is in the process of updating the APOSC. We do not have an updated digitized parcel map, which we need to update the Open Space Inventory map. Most other maps have not changed significantly. We do need to add a greenways map, update the scenic roads map, and update the open space map. Durst indicated they plan to finish their review in a month, and will then review the subdivision regulations. If we are not ready in a month, the checklist can be modified after they review the subdivision regulations. Pillo said we were not ready to make any modifications at this time. Durst noted that John Filchek has suggested creating Lake Districts (e.g., for Witches Wood, Pond Factory, Quasset, and Bungay.) Pillo told Durst she has copies of Coventry and Coventry Lake District regulations. Pillo noted that we still need to know the mechanism on how each new open space parcel is protected (e.g., conservation easement, etc.) Pillo noted that we have quite a backlog of open space parcels that need to be assessed (baseline and follow-up monitoring.) Durst asked whether the applicant can prepare the baseline assessment and Pillo suggested Durst check with Ruth Cutler. Fraga suggested that the Building Dept. should assume responsibility for re-ordering easement markers in the future. Fraga noted there are occasions where the priorities and requirements for PZC and IWWA are sometimes disconnected. Durst suggested IWWA can suggest that a setback or side yard requirement be sent by PZC to the ZBA for potential waiver if suggested by IWWA. Zimmerman asked about the status of the historic villages and hamlets, and Durst indicated PZC is working on it for next round.
 - **ACTION:** Pillo offered to send Durst a copy of Thomas Paine's dissertation on preserving community character (from a presentation sponsored by the Woodstock Historical Society and Historic Properties Commission.)
 - **Development Review Committee:** Pillo noted that the WCC Development Review Committee reviewed a proposed cell tower off of Sherman Road and sent in comments to the Siting Council (see communications above.)
 - **OSLAC** - No report.

- **Town Held Conservation Easements** – nothing to report.
- **Town Owned Forestry** – Graham spoke with Broderick and reviewed plans on Quarry and Perrin Road, and discussed how to go through the second thinning. He recommended he talk to a State Forester. Broderick did not think we could recoup cost for just those properties, but might be able to if we could do a cutting on all the relevant Town-owned properties at once. Graham also contacted Hull Forestry. Fraga requested consideration of wildlife.
 - **ACTION:** Zimmerman to get Graham list of Town-owned property, and old Broderick report with blue cover (note that list does not include new open space parcels like Herindeen, Green Road subdivision and Center Road, Town Beach and the Darby property.) Would have to look at restrictions. Dwyer mentioned that Allen Kelly, nearby resident who helps maintain the Town Beach was interested in more WCC involvement in that parcel – maybe establishing nature trails for cross country skiing and birding. Dwyer noted there may be some historic remnants (e.g., mill wheel), and that it would be nice to extend open space recreation around Town Beach.
- **Website** – list of members and Agendas and Minutes are up to date. **ACTION:** Zimmerman needs to check links to verify they are still active (time consuming task.).
- **Celebrating Agriculture (9/20/08)** - Lee is working on graphics for renewable resources. No one could remember what the other topics were for the display. Zimmerman suggested putting vernal pool critters in a small viewing aquarium, along with something hands on. Need to schedule volunteers. Pillo suggested making copies of the Right to Farm Ordinance available. Whoever puts the board together can pick up the board upstairs and then we need to figure out where to keep it in the future. Zimmerman will be out of town for Celebrating Ag.
 - **ACTION:** Wesler to check on handouts, and with Solar Wrights on touchy-feely display items. Zimmerman to print out Wesler’s info and Right to Farm Ordinance.
- **Trails inventory** - no report. Dziura Duke noted that 50 acre wood still needs something in the trail map holder.
- **Watershed Signage** - Pillo noted the RFP for CT Rivers Alliance small grant is finally out. Pillo wants to work on stream walks and Rapid Bioassessment, and watershed signage.
- **Vernal Pool Inventory** - Dziura-Duke has a report from Coughlin. Ten Woodstock residents were trained to do data collection. Field work was done from mid-April through June with assistance from new and previously trained volunteers. A total 107.5 hours were volunteered. A UCONN intern, Richard Fleming, put in an additional 30 hours. Fifteen pools were documented. Ten had 2 visits. The other five will be scheduled for second visits in the coming season. Wood Frogs, Spotted Salamander egg masses, Marble Salamander, Fairy Shrimp were all found in a number of productive pools. Local residents reported pools. Also looked at properties own by land trusts. One found on Darby Property. LaChappelle and Pulpit Rock road pools were “WOW” experiences, very productive., egg masses too numerous to count. Dziura-Duke will work on the final report for the grant. Next year Dziura-Duke has a number of other commitments, and will be looking into having someone else pick up the lead. Next year would like more resident reports. Fraga suggested sending something home with the elementary school children – their mascot is the frog. Zimmerman commended Dziura Duke and volunteers for gathering so much valuable information.
 - **ACTION:** Dziura-Duke to send copy of to Zimmerman for web, and send in a follow-up application for another season. **ACTION:** Zimmerman to add vernal pool photos to website.
- **Dwyer** expressed interest in joining the WCC.
- **New Business:**
 - Pillo discussed QSHC Source to Sea: mid-April to mid-June water related events (e.g., paddling) highlighting water resources in the area. Pillo would to see Woodstock Rec

- **ACTION:** Zimmerman suggested Pillo contact Karen Fitzpatrick.
- Fall Water Quality Monitoring through Rapid Bioassessment – training at Audubon. \$15.00. There are still great needs to collect data in Woodstock.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Zimmerman. Please note that these minutes may be amended in the next Conservation Commission meeting.