

**Conservation Commission**  
**Town of Willington**  
**Minutes**

**Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM**  
**[Remote Meeting via Zoom]**

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order @ 7:03 pm by Chairman Kathy Demers
- II. **Roll Call / Seating of Alternates:** Members present: Carol Jordan, Jackie Kulig, Nora Jones, and Kathy Demers. Members Bob Shabot, Patty Phillips and Marilyn Schreiber were excused. On a motion by J. Kulig/C. Jordan: *“Alternate Nora Jones be seated for Bob Shabot.”* Motion carried unanimously.
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by: C. Jordan /N. Jones: *“The minutes of December 20, 2023 be approved with a correction so that the words “Town owned property” be substituted for “Town open space” under Item F. Open Space Opportunities: 2. Other.”* Motion carried unanimously. On a motion by: J. Kulig/K. Demers: *“The minutes of November 28, 2023 be approved as written.”* Motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Present to Speak:** none
- V. **Treasurer’s Report/Finances:** - C. Jordan reported that there were no new expenditure; current budget balance = \$905.16. ARPA 27 funds: current balance \$3,174.58.
- VI. **New Business**
  - A. **Annual Budget Request:** Members discussed anticipated budget needs for FY’24 –’25 related to Membership/Conferences, Programs/Outreach, Park and Trail Maintenance, and Open Space Monitoring categories. It was noted that the library would like to collaborate on offering more programs related to environmental issues this summer. On a motion by: C. Jordan/N. Jones: *“The CC requests \$1,500 for the FY ’24-’25 budget.”* Motion carried unanimously.
  - B. **Other:** none
- VII. **Old Business**
  - A. **Willford Farms/Hull Forest Products/ ROW request:** K. Demers noted she had sent a letter to the BOS regarding the CC’s recommendation that they grant a right-of-way to Hull across the Town’s open space property adjacent to the Willford Farms property to accommodate the timber harvest. This item will be on the BOS’ January 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda.
  - B. **Properties Management**
    1. **Fenton-Ruby Park / Drobney Sanctuary**
      - *Stewards’ Reports / Maintenance:* K. Demers and her husband cleared a downed tree on the Taylor Pond Trail. A trail steward is still needed for the Ruby Trail/Langhammer Spur Trail. Members were encouraged to share info about trail steward responsibilities with potential volunteers.
    2. **Knowlton Preserve / Talmadge Conservation Tract**
      - *Stewards’ Reports:* K. Demers and her husband replaced a broken 6 ft board on the Talmadge Spur Trail.
  - C. **Town Development:** (PZC; IWWC; ZBA) – No reports.

- D. Collaborative Organization News & Communication:** K. Demers noted that Ron Parlee, the Tolland County representative on CACIWC's Board of Directors, has offered to speak to the CC at one of their future meetings.
- E. Regional Pollinator Pathway Initiatives:** No report.
- F. Open Space Opportunities:**
1. *Burma Road property:* K. Demers met with First Selectman Tanaka, Zoning Agent Mike D'Amato and Public Works Director Troy Sposato to discuss the need to secure access along the discontinued portion of Lustig Road. The Town's land use attorney will be engaged to determine next steps.
  2. *Historic Parcel on Jared Sparks Road* – K. Demers will work with the tax assessor to determine how to contact the current land owners who live out of state and inquire about their interest in preserving the property as open space.
- G. Willington Wire** –Still looking for a member to write the next article due at the end of March.
- H. Membership / 2024 Schedule** – The CC has one regular and two alternate seats open. Members were encouraged to identify potential new members and invite them to attend a meeting. The 2024 schedule has been sent out to members via email.

**VIII. Next Meeting:** February 21, 2024

**IX. Adjournment:** The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:32 pm on a motion by C. Jordan/N. Jones.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Demers, Chairman and secretary pro tem

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TOWN CLERK