



**COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES
(CUPOP)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Webex**

Meeting Video: https://youtu.be/_6RbuxwOxSQ

Present:

CUPOP Members: Nicole Donzello-Chair, Patti McKeon-Secretary, Leslie Lyons, and Lor Ferrante Fernandes (arrived about 5:45)

Liaisons: Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven,
Conservation Commission Chair Tim Austin

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.
2. **Conservation Commission Updates:** Chairman Tim Austin reported on the three projects below.

Merritt Avenue Subdivision: The parcel between Merritt Avenue and Merritt Parkway is being privately developed to include 14 two-unit dwellings. While the developer's proposal did not include a plan to set aside open space, the Commission is working with the civil engineer through the developer in hope to either preserve open space to be owned by the Town, or alternatively, an easement.

Clear Cutting Parcels: The Commission is interested in limiting clear cutting of parcels under development in Woodbridge. Once the research as to what other towns have in place and the scope is defined, a plan will be presented to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for review.

Woodbridge Greenway: Given the 20th anniversary since the recognition of the Woodbridge Greenway, the Commission plans to revisit and update the Greenway. Key objectives include Greenway extensions that make sense, preservation, and access.

3. **Board of Selectmen (BOS) Updates:** Deputy First Selectman Sheila McCreven reported on BOS activities relating to publicly owned properties.

New Bulk Disposal Fee at the Landfill: In February, a new fee for residents' bulk waste disposal will begin in order to offset the Town's disposal expense. This new fee will be based on weight using the existing scale at the landfill, rather than cubic yard (existing fee structure).

Woodbridge Farms: The BOS approved the Agricultural Commission's request to waive the fee for the Commission to go to TPZ for a change to allow farmstands to sell items produced by neighboring communities rather than just their own farm-grown items. Also, under discussion and review are ways for Woodbridge farmers to take advantage of available grants that require five-year leases, given the Town Charter limits farm leases to one year.

Former Country Club of Woodbridge Property: The BOS authorized the First Selectman to reach back out to Arbor Haven regarding the former Country Club of Woodbridge development proposal now that they have received feedback from Woodbridge Boards and Commissions. At this time, the Board was not able to accept the proposal presented by the Land Trust and Parks Association for a conservation easement due to the financial offer.

Affordable Housing Plan: Given the State requires an Affordable Housing Plan by June 1, it is anticipated that a plan will be presented to the BOS some time earlier than that date.

4. **CUPOP Chairman Report:** Chair Nicole Donzello provide an update as noted below.

Housing Information Forum–Meeting Take-aways: The public forum held on December 6 was well attended. The virtual presentation by David Fink from SCROGG met the objective of defining and educating the public on the topic of affordable housing.

Housing Opportunity Study Committee Update: To meeting the State mandate for a plan by June 1, the Committee is working toward the following key deliverable dates.

Mid-February: A second housing survey will be available for residents. While the first survey was broad, this second survey will be geared toward the Woodbridge community to better reflect the needs and wants of the community. Like the first survey, the second Housing Survey will be heavily publicized in a variety of ways to ensure Woodbridge community awareness.

Feb 17: The Housing Opportunity Study Committee, TPZ and SCROGG will hold a joint meeting to discuss the Housing Report in terms of what it will look like, and the information collected to that point.

April timeframe: The first draft of Housing Report is expected to be complete.

May timeframe: The final Housing Report draft is expected to be complete and ready to present to the BOS, and any necessary Town meetings will take place.

In-Person Meeting Status: At this time, there is not an indication as to when in-person meetings may begin to take place.

Littering: Nicole noted that an existing State statute is in place. Conversation ensued regarding the creation of a Town ordinance. Discussion included need (since there is an existing State statute), how the Town Ordinance would be different than what is in place at the State level, challenges associated with identifying offenders, and the cost associated with creating a Town ordinance. Anti-littering campaigns and signs were

discussed as well. Next steps may include reaching out to the Police Department regarding how the State statute is managed.

5. **Diversity & Inclusion Committee Update:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes reported a Town book discussion led by Reverend Antona Brent Smith will take place in February. *The 1619 Project* (by Nikole Hannah-Jones) will be the first book discussed. Discussions are underway for future community book readings. Additionally, it was reported that the Committees may be looking to conduct a survey.
6. **American Rescue Plan Act - Grove Update:** Patti McKeon noted that the project is a work in progress and that she will be preparing a report to submit to the Town.
7. **Dog Park:** Leslie Lyons reported that all original board members of the Dog Park Coop have retired. Eleven new directors and four new officers are now in place. Jeannette Glicksman is the new liaison, and she is expected as a February meeting guest.
8. **October Minutes:** Leslie Lyons motioned to approve the minutes; Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Nicole Donzello, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Lor Ferrante Fernandes
9. **November Minutes:** Patti McKeon motioned to approve the minutes; Leslie Lyons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Nicole Donzello, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Lor Ferrante Fernandes
10. **Next Meetings:** Monday, February 28, 2022
11. Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*