



## COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES (CUPOP)

### Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm via WebEx

Meeting Video: [https://youtu.be/-UjY\\_1ZByVI](https://youtu.be/-UjY_1ZByVI)

**Present: CUPOP Members:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes - Chair & Ad Hoc Sustainability, Patti McKeon - Secretary, Nancy Polk, Marty Halprin - Co-Chair (joined approx. 5:38 pm), Leslie Lyons (joined approx. 5:40 pm)

**Liaisons:** Jason Morrill, Conservation Commission Chair

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.
2. **CUPOP Chairman Report:** Chair Lor Ferrante Fernandes reported on items below.
  - **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations:** The importance of frequent testing was noted, and it was highlighted that within Woodbridge there will be COVID testing at the Center Building gym on February 14, 1:30-4:30 pm. Also, the test site locator may be used for other testing locations: [CT's 211 Testing Site Locator](#). Moving forward with vaccinations within CT was reviewed as well.
  - **Diversity & Inclusion:** The Chair noted that she is pleased to be a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and reported that the Committee is moving along on a variety of projects.
  - **Grand List:** The Grand List was discussed along with its impact on taxes and the flurry of recent sales.
  - **Sustainability**
    - a. It was noted that **HES (Home Energy Solutions)** has been extended through March. Based on a home audit, recommendations are made to help save on energy related expenses.
    - b. **Geothermal** energy was discussed.
    - c. The **Community Gardens** plot renewals for existing gardeners should be taking place within a month or so, and it was noted that there is a wait list for new gardeners. The current plot rate is \$25.

- d. **Earth Day** event will be held in Woodbridge on Saturday morning, April 24. The specific time and event details will be forthcoming. Organizing a seed swap for the event was discussed. Leslie Lyons volunteered to call Massaro Farm to gather some ideas.
  - **Former Country Club of Woodbridge Property:** Activity was reported as status quo.
  - **Old Firehouse:** It was reported that renovations continue.
3. **Liaison Chair Updates:** Chair Jason Morrill, Conservation Commission reported on three active projects.
- The first project relates to privately-owned property located on Park Lane of which 5 acres will house a solar farm. The Conservation Commission is involved to the extent that the Commission is working on the realignment of some blue trails in the area as well as the preservation of a historic foundation located on the property.
  - The second project involves use designations for open space including recreation areas. This item will be discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting, and once complete, a draft will be passed along to CUPOP and Recreation.
  - The third item involves the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. The Commission was approached by the Society to help place 20 tree swallow houses on publicly owned properties as part of a boy scout project. Appropriate Woodbridge locations as well as installation and annual maintenance are among items being addressed by the Commission. Once complete, a plan will be shared with CUPOP.

Regarding TPZ, Chair Fennate Fernandes noted that the Housing Hearing will continue at the next TPZ meeting scheduled for Monday, February 1.

4. **Tick Workshop Update:** Marty Halprin reported that Kirby Stafford, Ph.D., Chief Entomologist, State Entomologist, from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is available for a virtual tick workshop. Marty will reach back out to Mr. Stafford to determine his availability for April 26.
5. **Dog Park Update:** Discussion tabled for the February CUPOP meeting.
6. **Invasive Species Update:** Patti McKeon reported that Trail Master Andy Danzig organized a small group that cleared the Racebrook Tract. Fallen trees, brush and invasive plants found along the path were cleared. The topic of community involvement to help eradicate invasive species took place. Public education and regularly organized trail maintenance days were discussed.

7. **November Minutes:** Leslie Lyons motioned to approve the November minutes; Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
**Vote: Yes** - Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Leslie Lyons, Marty Halprin, Patti McKeon, Nancy Polk
8. **Next Meeting:** Monday, February 22, 2021, 5:30 pm via WebEx. Updates from this evening's meeting as well as the topic of safety will be discussed at the February meeting.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*