

MINUTES
WOODBIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
17 FEBRUARY 2022
Minutes taken by Barbara Hagan-Smith

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM

Chair appointed by Tim Austin; Sharon DeKadt

Minutes Recorder: Barbara Hagan-Smith

Present: Valerie King, Kate Rosen, Paul Harrigan, Sharon DeKadt, Barbara Hagan-Smith

Absent Tim Austin, Diane McCarthy-Bercury

There were no public comments.

Paul made a motion to table the Parks Assoc. and Land Trust report and discussion to the March meeting when they will be able to give their full report. And that, in their place a discussion be held on the greenway and grant projects. Kate 2nd - Approved unanimously

Greenway: A discussion about the greenway project was held in which most agreed that as relative newcomers to the Commission, little was known as to the timeliness of the map, what had been done recently and, where to start. The liaison, Mr. Lober, suggested visiting the town clerk as she had the information. Barbara and Valerie will inquire of the Clerk and Sharon will inquire of the Land Trust. All to report back at the next meeting.

Writing Grants : Kate asked that a subcommittee be formed to do some pre-work on grants in general - Kate, Diane(to be asked) and, ideally a third person will be named. Selectman Lober mentioned the just received federal grant of \$10 million which includes components for outdoor recreation and open space. Selectmen David Vogel and Sheila McCreven are in charge of finding uses for the grant moneys. Kate will contact both of them.

Minutes : !6 December 2021, Sharon moved approval with the correction of the spelling of Barbara's last name - Kate 2nd - passed unanimously

20 January 2022 Sharon moved approval, Valerie 2nd - passed unanimously

Liaison Report : A financial Strategic Plan to be developed
Grant received for town center sidewalks etc.
\$10 million federal grant received (as stated above)
Beth to proceed on negotiations with Arbor Haven which will need a town mtg to approve a referendum all of which needs to be in person.
Town Charter out of date - revisions to be made
1st Selectman agreed to add our materials re: Arbor Haven to the official minutes

Merritt Ave. Development : The liaison said that Wetlands delayed action on the proposal as the maps needed to be updated by the hydrologist. It was decided to table our discussion until Wetlands made their recommendations.

Tree Ordinance : Barbara promised to send paper written by the OLR which has valuable info and acknowledged basis on various CT Town's handling of tree protection.
Also mentioned that many towns have regulations attached to Planning and Zoning or Wetlands which seem to suffice instead of ordinances. There was discussion of "Big brother" vs individual rights, benchmarks, possible negative consequences. It was decided to continue research and report next month. Selectman Lober reiterated our need only for stating the "meat" of what we want not the need for any legal language.

Delayed subjects: Update on "Kate's Trail Challenge"
Shall and mays

Member Comments : Agenda for next month to include: Need for longer meetings; Park/Trust presentation and discussion; Trail Challenge; Merritt development; updates on trees, greenway, 10 million; "Shalls and Mays"; Site visit to a potential grant acquisition property.

Motion made to adjourn at 8:42 by Barbara Hagan-Smith, 2nd by Val King

Video of this meeting may be reviewed at <https://youtu.be/ZYFFKWpKNFM>