



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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Webex

Meeting Video:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/recording/service/sites/woodbridgect/recording/8ccf641e398544c6ba48367aba96ca40/playback>

Present: CUPOP Members: Lor Ferrante Fernandes-Chair, Patti McKeon-Secretary, Leslie Lyons, Nicole Donzello, Marty Halprin-Co-Chair (joined approx. 5:40 pm)

Liaison: Jason Morrill, Conservation Commission Chair

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm.
2. **January Minutes:** Patti McKeon motioned to approve the January minutes; Leslie Lyons seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Nicole Donzello
3. **CUPOP Chairman Report:** Chair Lor Ferrante Fernandes reported on items below.
 - **COVID Update:** It was mentioned that all safety protocol should continue to be practiced well as COVID testing continued. To help find test site locations, the 211 link may be used: [CT's 211 Testing Site Locator](#)

It was further reported that 65+ vaccinations are going well and Governor Lamont announced that the state will continue with an age-based approach. A recap of the planned schedule is as follows:

- **March 1, 2021:** Expands to age group 55 to 64
- **March 22, 2021:** Expands to age group 45 to 54
- **April 12, 2021:** Expands to age group 35 to 44
- **May 3, 2021:** Expands to age group 16 to 34

The Governor plans to work with providers to ensure that vaccines are administered to people living in the highest-risk communities in proportion to their population. In addition to the age-based eligibility, preK-12 school staff and teachers, and professional childcare providers will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

Regarding safety signage at Beecher Road School, it was reported that there had been signs, and it is planned for new ones to be installed by the school.

- **Diversity & Inclusion:** Based on Dr. Budd's presentation, it was reported that the school district has key initiatives related to this focus as well as upcoming work that will support ongoing efforts to meet the unique needs of each child. (Also, the ad hoc committee is planning a Celebration on Diversity.)
 - **Sustainability:**
 - The **Home Energy Solution** is running through March.
 - **Community Garden** plot renewals will begin soon.
 - **Former Country Club of Woodbridge Property:** nothing new to report.
 - **Old Firehouse:** Renovation are ongoing.
 - **Community Projects:**
 - The Town in looking to improve the Grove (space between the Old Firehouse and the Library, residents are encouraged offer their input via the short survey of the Town website at woodbridgect.org or access the survey via this link:
<https://www.woodbridgect.org/FormCenter/First-Selectman-23/Help-Transform-the-Grove-94>
 - The Town in working to develop a five mile on-road bike route linking several Town destinations. The plan is to have the route marked by signage, include bike rack and solar-powered speed awareness signs. If the project raises \$7500 by its April 25 fundraising deadline, the project will receive a \$7500 matching grant from Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund. For details and to donate funds for the bike route project go to: Patronicity.com/WoodbridgeBikeRoute.
 - To help the Economic Development with its future work, there is a short survey about consumer habits and the types of businesses you would like to see in town. To take the survey go to the Town website at woodbridgect.org or access the survey via this link: <https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/RCNTd>
4. **Liaison Chair Updates:** Conservation Commission Chair Jason Morrill reported on two topics.
- The Commission is preparing a letter to present to the Board of Selectmen and the Amity Board of Education by Friday with their recommendations to put a moratorium on the Amity High School turf field project. While their letter may not be able to stop the progress of the project, the Commission felt it was necessary for them to address the matter based on their finding that there is an endangered species on that parcel as well as concerns of ground water run-off and the uncertainty of materials used in the turf product that will cover the field. Discussion ensued as to whether CUPOP should also sign the letter. The Conservation Commission will meet this Thursday at 7 pm to finalize the letter.

- Conservation is developing a document titled Use Designations of Open Space. The intent of the document is to classify open space by use designation. A classification system would make discussion about a specific parcel of open space completely transparent up front. There is some overlap between the two Commissions on this project.

Chair Fernandez reported that liaison TPZ Chair Robert Klee has a TPZ meeting this evening at 6:30 pm and encouraged CUPOP members to attend. Discussion took place regarding the continued public hearing of an application to permit multi-family and affordable housing. Zoning and State requirements for municipalities to prepare a housing plan were also discussed.

5. **Earth Day - Saturday, April 24 (9-11 am):** Upon looking into the project, Leslie Lyons reported that a “seed swap” table would not be ideal for this year given the COVID-19 safety protocols. As this year’s event will focus on ideas to “reduce and recycle”, other ideas that may coincide with this theme will continue to be considered.
6. **Tick Workshop Update** Marty Halprin reported that Kirby Stafford from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station is available to conduct a virtual tick workshop at CUPOPs April 26 meeting. Discussion involving meeting logistics and promoting the workshop took place.
7. **Dog Park Update** Nicole Donzello reported that all is going well at the dog park and that plaques have been hung on the fence for each dog section. One area of concern is that patrons are not picking up after their dogs.
8. **Items for March Meeting:** Monday, March 22, 2021 at 5:30 pm via Webex
- TPZ Update
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6::24 pm

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*