



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

### Meeting Minutes

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

**Meeting Video:** <https://youtu.be/fvteCtae0EA>

**Present: CUPOP Members:** Lor Ferrante Fernandes-Chair, Marty Halprin-Co-Chair, Patti McKeon-Secretary, Leslie Lyons,

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:52 pm.
2. **February Minutes:** Leslie Lyons motioned to approve the minutes; Patti McKeon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.  
**Vote: Yes** - Lor Ferrante Fernandes, Leslie Lyons, Patti McKeon, Marty Halprin
3. **Liaison Chair Updates:** TPZ and Conservation Commission update tabled for May Meeting.
4. **CUPOP Chairman Report:** Chair Lor Ferrante Fernandes reported on items below:
  - **COVID Update:**
    - COVID-19 Testing - [CT's 211 Testing Site Locator](#)
    - COVID-19 Connecticut vaccination eligibility is currently at age 45+; beginning April 5, eligibility expands to ages 16+.
  - **Beecher Road School Update:**
    - Faculty and staff have been vaccinated.
    - A search for an Assistant Principal is currently underway.
    - COVID safety signage is expected to be posted by the walking loop sometime next week.
  - **Diversity & Inclusion Update:**
    - A daytime diversity celebration is being planned by the Committee. To promote the theme of this celebration, One Town One Book aligned with a film is being planned. Activities for children are also being considered.
  - **Housing Study Committee:**
    - This new ad hoc committee reports to the Board of Selectmen and has been formed to evaluate data, engage community, and assess housing. The Committee will work on an Affordable Housing Plan.

- **TPZ Update:**
    - TPZ continues to work through the public hearing process for application to permit multi-family and affordable housing.
  - **Verizon Cell Tower Update:**
    - Verizon ran a test at the Newton Road site to determine if a tower that stands less than 140' tall will meet necessary Verizon requirements.
  - **Sustainability Update:**
    - Community Gardens plot renewals have begun. Plot availability will be determined following the renewals
  - **American Rescue Package:**
    - First Selectman Heller along with other State mayors and first selectmen attended a meeting hosted by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro where an update on the package was reviewed which includes infrastructure improvements. Also, funding was allotted to Woodbridge via the Water Resources Recovery Act to aide with identifying a solution to the Town's flooding issues around the lower Litchfield Turnpike area.
  - **Former Country Club of Woodbridge (CCW) Property:**
    - Options on how best to handle the Club House on the property are being discussed.
  - **Old Firehouse Update:**
    - Work continues to develop this space into a community space.
  - **Public Space Update:**
    - Through bonding the Town is planning to build a storage facility behind the Firehouse, make improvements to the Senior Center, add a new roof to Beecher Road School, and address the Club House at the former CCW site. There may be a referendum related to these improvements.
    - As reported last month, the Town is looking to improve the Grove (space between the Old Firehouse and the Library) as well as develop a five-mile bike route. The fundraising deadline for the bike route is through April 25. Details may be found on the Town website.
5. **Earth Day - Saturday, April 24 between 9-11 am:** Leslie Lyons highlighted the variety of activities to take place the day of the event. Advanced purchase of compost bins and rain barrels for pick up at the event are available through SCROG. Orders may be placed via this link <https://scrcogcompostersale.company.site/>. (Event activities are highlighted in the upcoming April newsletter.)
  6. **Tick Workshop – Monday, April 26 at 5:30 pm:** Marty Halprin reported that the guest speaker for the Tick Workshop will be Kirby Stafford from CT Agricultural Experiment Station. The meeting may be viewed via Channel 79, youtube@wgatv79 as well as participation via the Webex link. (See the CUPOP meeting agenda for link details.) Workshop flyers will be made available in the Library meeting room for patrons. A Webex test with the guest speaker will be planned prior to the workshop.
  7. **Dog Park Update:** There is nothing new to report this month.

8. **Invasive Species Update:** Patti McKeon noted that recent cleanup work of the Trail Master Andy Danzig is reflected by how noticeably improved Woodbridge trails look. For the May meeting, Patti will report on the spring trail cleanup as well as the status of the trails by Park Lane that need to be “reconnected” because they ran through private property which is now the site of a solar farm.
9. **Next Meeting:** Tick Workshop, April 26 at 5:30 pm. See CUPOP agenda for viewing and participation details.
10. **Items for May Meeting:** Monday, May 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm
  - Beecher Loop Signs
  - Trail Master Updates
  - Earth Day Updates
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*