

## Woodbridge Conservation Commission Meeting

May 19, 2022

You Tube Recording: <https://youtu.be/XOKIz0vFeQ8>

Present: Chairman T. Austin, Commissioner P. Harrigan, B. Hagan, V. King, S. de Kadt & D. McCarthy-Bercury

Call to Order at 7:35 pm

There was no public comment

There was a presentation by John Paul Gracia, Civil engineer and consult for the Merritt Ave development. He provided general information about the Merritt Ave proposed development for 13 lots on approximately 3.5 acres. The project is currently being reviewed by Inlands wetlands and he believes there will be action taken at the upcoming Inland Wetlands meeting.

Minutes from April 2022 – Chairman Austin made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Barbara Hagan seconded. There was discussion regarding some extra pages that were accidentally attached to the electronic minutes. The motion was amended to approval with the subtraction of unnecessary attachments. Motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the WCC meeting time and date of the month. The commission agreed to keep the same meeting day of the month which is the third Thursday of the month. The commission agreed to change the meetings start time to 7:30 pm beginning on the July 21, 2022, meeting.

There was a discussion about an online repository to keep WCC materials and documents. The platform BOX – there was a motion made by the Chairman T. Austin to adopt BOX as the online repository for the WCC, the motion was seconded by P. Harrigan. There was discussion about BOX and how it would be used to store final version of historical and present documents, Passed unanimously.

Liaison Report – Selectman Lober was unable to attend the meeting and submitted electronic written updates. Chairman T. Austin will circulate the electronic written update to the commissioners after the meeting.

Member Comments:

Funding - There was a question regarding how much funding is available in the Open Space Balance on the books - \$72,254.86 in the accountant. There was a discussion about how to increase the funding and if funds were raised how can the commission ensure the funds are committed to projects supporting the purpose and mission of the Woodbridge Conservation Commission. There is a request to invite Tony to speak to the WCC members regarding funding, grants and allocations for projects under the auspices of the WCC. Who manages the grants and administers grants awarded to the Town? What is the process for the WCC to procure open space parcels?

Tree Ordinance – Commission P. Harrigan spoke with the Tree Warden in Westport Ct, and the chair from the tree ordinance

Budget Updates – the Town budget, including the WCC budget, was passed at the Town Meeting.

The Housing Report was submitted to the Town. There was discussion about open space and affordable housing developments. P Harrigan stated Statute 830-G discussion around the understanding of affordable housing. There was discussion about the 20-25% open space in the Town however it was recognized that the actual protected open space is only about 6% of the land mass in Woodbridge.

Maps – there was discussion about the map collection of the Woodbridge land parcels, water courses, wetlands etc. Barbara

Merritt Ave – There was a motion made to add the Merritt Ave development topic to the agenda for commission discussion. The motion made by Sharon de Katd, seconded by p. Harrigan. The motion passed unanimously.

Greenway discussion – There was a discussion regarding the parcels of the development and the interest for more area to remain open space.

Sharon made a motion at 10:00 to adjourn. It was seconded by Barbara Hagan.