

Woodbridge Conservation Commission

May 20, 2021 Meeting

*Via Zoom*

Members in attendance: Chairman Morrill, Tim Austin, Traci Cipriano, Sharon de Kadt.

Members absent: Frank DeLeo, Kate Rozen, Leland Torrence

- Minutes from March 18, 2021 approved with an amendment regarding the bird houses. Chairman Morrill moved to approve, Tim Austin seconded.
- Minutes from April 15, 2021 meeting have not been completed yet
- Chairman Morrill shared public request for Conservation Commission to provide a statement related to negative impacts of cell tower on wildlife habitat and natural surroundings. Commission members discussed potential role of Commission in weighing in on this issue, and whether there is any scientific basis to do so, the fact that the Commission has not been involved in this issue and has no information on which to base a position one way or the other. Other professionals have been deeply involved in this issue and are in a better position to address it. Jason will let Betsy know we as a commission will not submit any letters on this issue because we do not have any knowledge basis to do so.
- Revisions to the draft Use Designations of Open Space document were reviewed. Jason and Tim brought it to the Woodbridge Land Trust and received support for latest revisions. The next step is to bring the document to CUPOP for review and feedback. Goal is to complete revisions before June WCC meeting, at which time the Commission can adopt the revised document. Once the WCC adopts the document, we can bring it to the Board of Selectmen for final approval, with a presentation by the WCC on property use designation types and providing context for the document, as well as being available to respond to questions. Tim will draft a brief statement addressing how future changes to the document will be handled. The goal is to have the document posted on the WCC page on the Town website.
- The revised draft Property Rating System was reviewed. Tim has shared the draft and reviewed the WCC approach to the system with the Woodbridge Land Trust. There was some concern regarding the approach to prioritization of the properties. They questioned whether a priority ranking was appropriate or needed. Keep it simple: Is this property worthy of acquisition and why? Based on our Property Acquisition Codes for Planning. Rating system appears to be bogging down the process, so it makes sense to go with the raw score as a basis for any decisions (which will be subjective). It was suggested the Rating System can also be used by other town committees and boards to evaluate properties when planning and making decisions about use. Commission agreed with recommendation to simplify system and remove priority rating scores.
- Chairman's Report: Massaro Farm CT Trails Day will be held Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>, no rain date. Advanced registration is required, very limited capacity. Jason will be there. Chairman Morrill also announced his rotation off the WCC in July, as well as Traci Cipriano. The Commission will discuss appointments to Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at the June meeting.
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:35 pm by Chairman Morrill. Second by Tim Austin.