

# Woodbridge Conservation Commission Minutes

June 2, 2022

Minutes recorded by: Paul Harrigan

You Tube Recording: [Conservation - 06/02/22 - YouTube](#)

The June 2, 2022 Conservation Commission special meeting to discuss the Greenway was called to order at 6:39 PM and was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

In attendance: Tim Austin, Barbara Hagan-Smith, Valerie Holley-King, Kate Rozen, and Paul Harrigan.

- 1) Greenway – The commission agreed to discuss the existing greenway and then discuss members suggestions for extensions of the current state recognized greenway.
  - a. The commission members discussed the importance of definitions of certain terms related to the Greenway:
    - i. Greenway vs. Greenway Trails
    - ii. Inner loop of Greenway vs. Outer Loop Greenway
    - iii. The need for precise definitions for open space to differentiate between simply land that has yet to be developed vs. Protected Open Space. Tim suggested we identify the level of protection of the sections of the Greenway in our final product.
  - b. Existing Greenway discussion – The Commission reviewed the descriptions copied by Tim Austin from the 2000 Open Space Plan and a Map of Woodbridge with some but not all of the current properties identified that form the Greenway. Tim reported he had made some minor updates to a few of the descriptions. The Commission members discussed the individual sections that compose the greenway starting at the area of the Darling House property. Several members commented that reviewing the descriptions in conjunction with a map was very helpful in understanding each section of the Greenway and the connections to adjacent sections of the Greenway.
  - c. Members discussed the possibility of developing a map of the Greenway that would identify points of interest, historical sites, points of access and parking.
  - d. Barbara said the historical society would be happy to contribute by suggesting historical sites of interest along the Greenway to the map / descriptions that the commission ultimately develops. Historical areas of interest mentioned were:
    - i. The Old Kiln
    - ii. Three Judges site
    - iii. Roger Sherman Farm
    - iv. Glacial Erratic / Gypsy Rock
    - v. And Others.
  - e. Valerie suggested that we should consider making sections safe and accessible for those that are not experienced trail hikers.

## Greenway Extensions

- f. Members brain stormed the following areas of potential extension to the existing Greenway:
  - i. Connections on the south and south east side of Woodbridge:

1. Connection from Amity Road through the area adjacent to Park Lane, Glacial Erratic (Gypsy Rock) to the Woodbridge Country Club property (Roger Sherman's Farm).
2. From the Woodbridge Country Club Property (Roger Sherman Farm) to the Oak Lane country club property.
3. Connection possibilities around the Merritt Parkway on Johnson Road to the Race Brook Tract connecting to Orange.
4. Kate mentioned that we should be aware of wetlands in the area near the parkway near Johnson Road.
- ii. Connections from Woodbridge Country Club to the center of town / Fitzgerald Property.
  1. There is a potential path from Woodbridge Country Club connecting to the Fitzgerald Property through land trust land to Woodside Road and crossing Beecher Road. This extension would offer parking at both ends.
- iii. Connections from the Flats / Amity Road to the area of the Darling House (south eastern and eastern areas of town)
  1. Areas around Knolls Pond were discussed.
  2. Historic difficulties in getting permission to cross the Nugent property was mentioned.
  3. Tim suggested the West River areas could be coordinated with the West River Coalition.
- iv. West side of Woodbridge
  1. Barbara noted that the west side of Woodbridge did not have a Greenway area designated that could connect to open space areas such as the Massaro Farm. More thought will need to be given to options on the west side of Woodbridge.
- v. It was mentioned that the gas line could be considered as a way to connect areas.
- vi. Areas of Northern Woodbridge connecting to trails in Bethany were briefly mentioned.
- vii. In general the commission discussed the desirability of connecting to open space in neighboring towns and to have our expanded greenway recognized by the state.
- 2) Formatting the Greenway Plan – The commission discussed suggestions on formatting the revised and expanded Greenway plan. Kate suggested including a map in the Greenway plan would be very useful.
- 3) Each Member was assigned the following two sections of the existing Greenway description to review and edit (it was suggested to make changes in tract changes to each section in Word):

Member	Section
1A & 1	Diana
2 & 3	Sharon
4 & 5	Valerie
6 & 7	Barbara
8 & 9	Kate
10 & 11	Paul

The sections are to be sent to Tim Austin to compile all sections into a single document.

- 4) The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.