



**COMMISSION ON THE USE OF PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTIES
(CUPOP)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Webex**

YouTube Meeting Video: <https://youtu.be/xyEdbdXxJCE>

Present:

CUPOP Members: Nicole Donzello-Chair, Leslie Lyons, Alison Valsamis

Liaisons: Chairman Tim Austin- Conservation Commission

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm. It was noted that there was not a quorum.
2. Chair Donzello welcomed Alison Valsamis as a new CUPOP member.
3. Approval of June CUPOP Minutes was tabled to next meeting.
4. **Conservation Commission Updates:** Chairman Tim Austin provided an update on the Woodbridge Greenway. He noted that a key piece of property that is in the path of the Greenway is up for sale. The Conservation Commission is working on the challenges that this situation presents. Chair Austin requested that he be contacted if anyone knows an “angel” who might be willing to purchase the property. He explained that the CT Trust of Public Land, defines an angel as someone willing to buy property to give an entity time to acquire funding for the property, possibly through a grant.
5. Chair Nicole Donzello provided a status on potential projects that CUPOP members plan to begin working on this year.
 - **2014 list of publicly owned properties:**
 - A list has been received from the Assessor’s office.
 - There is a notebook at the Town Clerk’s Office that includes deeds of all properties on the 2014 list. The notebook may be borrowed for an in-person working meeting.
 - Discussion took place on methods to potentially expand the existing list to include pedestrian easements and other restrictions.
 - **Invasives - partnering with Trail Master Andy Danzig:**
 - Methods for removing Japanese Barberry were discussed based on input from Andy Danzig.
 - Japanese Barberry is prevalent on the Pease Road and Beecher Road trails. As these trails are accessible from the road, they may be a good starting place for this project.
 - Determining whether grants might be available was discussed.

- **Accessibility - partnering with Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman:**
 - Acorn Hill, West River and Pease Park were looked at in terms of accessibility. A few ideas on how to make access from the parking lots to the fields easier were shared, noting a review with Town departments would be necessary.
 - Leslie Lyon offered her assistance with this potential project.
 - Jeanette Glicksman will be invited to the September meeting.
 - **Sustainability Standards**
 - After preliminary review of this project, the recommendation is for this project to be potentially addressed by an ad hoc committee.
 - **Spearheading public awareness for littering**
 - Resident Kathy Barkin is on board with assisting with more frequent Rid Litter Days with a date to be planned for this fall. She will be invited to the September meeting.
 - Use of volunteers and the Green Team was discussed.
6. **Housing Opportunity Study Committee:** While unable to attend, Chair Donzello reported that an August meeting was held, and minutes are on the website.
 7. **Dog Park Update:** Leslie Lyons reported on the items below.
 - As several dogs have been diagnosed with kennel cough, dog owners are being asked to keep their dog homes a week following any upper respiratory illness and to not share drinking bowls.
 - Dog owners are reminded to not bring dog treats into the park as noted on posted signs. The reason is to avoid innocent aggression by dogs excited to receive treats.
 - Dog owners are reminded to please pick up after their dog.
 - Another bench and trees will be added to the small dog park.
 - A Birch tree will be added to the large dog park for shade as well as to help with water absorption in that area.
 8. **Next Meetings:** Monday, September 26, 2022
 9. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*