

TOWN OF CANAAN  
INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2023

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m. Minutes of July 17, 2023 were reviewed. Sinclair made motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Burdick; approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**1. Hollenbeck Club:** Mark Burdick reported having seen site along Hollenbeck River riverbank where restoration had occurred. The site appears stable, although Burdick wondered if a few boulders might need repositioning. The site will continue to be monitored.

**2. Railroad Herbicide Spraying:** Sinclair reported that efforts are now focused on sending a letter to Selectmen of towns along the river, emphasizing how critical it is that they become more involved in advocating regulations pertinent to railroad spraying. The CEQ continues to be supportive of the Working Group efforts and advised that the CT Water Policies Council and the Department of Public Health be contacted. The WPC did respond and the Housatonic River Working Group will be on their agenda for their September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, for which zoom will be available. The Working Group has written a letter to the lawyer for the Housatonic Railroad in efforts to obtain information regarding the railroad's spraying schedule.

**3. Solar Panels at Town Farm:** Kelsey suggested inviting representatives from the solar company to our September meeting to address siting concerns of the panels. The consensus is that efforts to maintain agricultural lands should be a priority of the Town. Kelsey will reach out to invite representatives to our next meeting.

**4. Town Plan of Conservation and Development:** Sinclair volunteered to write a letter to Glen Chalder and the P&Z with additional comments for consideration and incorporation into the Town Plan (i.e. herbicide use along our roadside and the Commission's severe reservations regarding the proposed plan to construct a road from Route 7S to Railroad Street in the vicinity of the current Highway Department.

**5. Forestry Advisory Subcommittee**

**A. Community Fuelwood Program:** Kelsey reported she had done some research regarding federal/state grants for community fuelwood programs. Kelsey expressed reservations about establishing such a program in our town as they are intended to be run by volunteers and that logistically, this may be problematical for our small town. She will continue to research this by contacting the State Forestry Division and reaching out to the Town of Milton, where apparently there is a program in place.

**B. Town Tree Removal:** It was noted an ash was cut down on Main Street near the library; the ash at Kellogg School is still standing.

**C. Bartlett Invoice:** A bill for \$551.00 was received for injection treatment of the elm on Brewster Street. Said treatment is to help suppress Dutch Elm Disease.

Kelsey made motion to have Treasurer pay the bill; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**A. Lanier Property Inquiry, Brewster Street:** Burdick had an inquiry from an individual under contract to purchase the Lanier property regarding the protocol for expanding the pond located on the property. Sinclair had also spoken with her and informed her that she would need to submit an application to the IW/CC.

**Routing Sheets:** None.

**Communications:** None.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.; seconded by Kelsey; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary