

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 6, 2024

Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Conroy, Mr. Faison, Ms. Stagen, Mr. Horn
MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Payne
ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ms. Waldron, Ms. Fernandez
ALTERNATES ABSENT:
OTHERS:

Vice Chair Conroy called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and seated Mr. Faison, Ms. Stagen (5:24) Mr. Horne (5:24) Ms. Waldron, Ms. Fernandez

Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2024

Motion: To accept the February 7, 2024, meeting minutes as written by Ms. Fernandez, seconded by Ms. Stagen. Passed unanimous.

Invasive Management– Linda Frank

Mr. Faison discussed the findings of Ashton's map regarding invasives on New Preston Open Space. Mr. Faison confirmed the map shows that this parcel has a lot of invasives. He recommends rather than ripping out bunches of invasives which would set the stage for more to colonize the committee should just focus on Oriental Bittersweet because of its ability to kill large trees and impact the forest canopy.

New Preston Open Space Management-Phragmites, Ryan Conroy

Discussion shelved until April meeting.

Pollinator Planting Plan – Loretta Stagen

Upon investigation Ms. Stagen learned that the upkeep of a pollinator garden will require consistent maintenance. Mr. Horne mentioned that WEC is really interested in pollinator gardens and suggested seeking collaboration with them for possible funding of an intern to take on the maintenance. Mr. Horne will bring this idea forward to WEC and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

Tree Regs Progress

No Update/discussion

2024 POCD ongoing discussion of items to be included in 2024

Mr. Faison briefly discussed the three goals in the Natural Resource and Open Space section of the 2024 POCD draft that the Conservation Commission is responsible for. It was suggested that the commissioners begin to weigh in and provide feedback on the goals and strategies that were put forth in the plan for further discussion at the next CC meeting. Mr. Faison also asked the commissioners to think about who they might hire as a consultant to update the Natural Resources Document as suggested in the plan.

Revisit guidance re Solar Panel placement

No update/discussion.

Recommendations for two Alternate Vacancies

No update

Other and/or Old Business

Vice Chair Conroy recommended that the commission should meet (weather permitting) at the New Preston Open Space for April's meeting.

Motion To Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm made by Ms. Stagen, seconded by Mr. Conroy. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Tingley

Land Use Clerk

Town of Washington

03/06/2024

Minutes are subject to approval

A link to access a recording of this meeting is below.

[Consv Mtg 3-6-24.mp4](#)