

Woodstock Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Meeting Room A

Members present C. Adams, J. Audette T. Anderson, L. Davidson, G. Jacobson, J. Pillo, A.J. Purcell, J. Reck, M. Robie, E. Smith & L. Wesler

Prospective new member – J. Stern

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:03p.m.**
2. **Seating of alternates** – None
3. **Public participation** – Dawn Adiletta, Chair OSLA gave a presentation on another PDR project to purchase the development rights for 129 acres of Valleyside Farm on Child Hill. Dawn was there to officially inform the WCC of this project and seek confirmation that it is consistent with *A Plan of Open Space and Conservation* (APOSC.) She has already met with BOS, BOF and the AG Commission and received their concurrence. The owners intend to continue farming as part of their business plan and are looking at adding a yogurt creamery. The PDR agreement was signed in the spring, and deed transfer is expected by the end of June. The Town will need to vote on this, since Woodstock would be paying for up to 25% of the purchase price. However, Adiletta explained that this project would not impact the town budget, as the money (up to \$140,000) is already in the Open Space fund. The State DOAG can also apply to NRCS for funding. No date has been set for town meeting as yet – a town referendum on the budget is May 16. Dawn indicated that under the proposed budget, only \$15,000 is going into Open Space fund next fiscal year. Fees and penalties from premature PA-490 sales also go into the OS fund. B. Smith made a motion that the WCC finds that purchase of the development rights for Valleyside Farm is consistent with the APOSC and that we support the use of OS funds for this purpose. C. Adams seconded and the motion carried unanimously, as all found it “jolly good.”
4. **Approval/Amendment of minutes:** C. Adams motioned, J. Pillo second, all approved.
5. **Chairperson’s Report** – Nothing concerning WCC.
6. **Treasurer’s Report** - \$425.88.88 in budget & \$192.26 in special fund.
7. **Communications** – copy of CT. Wildlife.
8. **Old Business:**
 - a. DRC Report – No report.
 - b. OSLA&APC – No report.
 - c. P&Z report – Nothing concerning conservation commission directly.
 - d. Report on the Forest Management– G. Jacobson reported nothing new to report to date.
 - e. Ag Commission report - G. Jacobson reported that the Ag Commission is continuing a plot by plot review of all properties in Woodstock. Discussion of the recommendation for property owners to have a Forest Management Plan on forest land prior to making any major changes.

f. Salt Shed – J. Pillo informed us that she had made some phone calls and will be following up, hopefully this coming week. B. Smith noted that years ago she saw a well being drilled at an antique white house directly across from Hawkins Road (down gradient from the Maldonado's), and thought it was related to the salt contamination in this area.

g. Easement stewardship – no further progress to report this month.

h. The draft source water protection plan needs to be finalized and forwarded to PZC. B. Smith noted that her comments and those of L. Davidson had not been incorporated by the author.

9. New Business:

a. Notice/review of past /upcoming Workshops

J. Pillo informed us that the Gypsy Moth workshop has been rescheduled for April 17 at 7 p.m.

Robert Craig will be giving a talk on birds that same day.

G. Jacobson attended CCNR at UConn, was informative but sessions were very short and not enough time was given to be very effective.

b. Open Discussion – ECCD was given a grant for Rain Gardens and three are to be installed in Woodstock.

J. Pillo informed us that anyone might apply. The Roseland Lake Mgmt. plan is finished and was presented in workshops by J. Pillo last month. **The Last Green Valley will pay NRCS for land surveys if people are interested.**

J. Pillo mentioned a new program where the NRCS may purchase conservation easements on land. The Great Outdoors walks have started and J. Pillo invited anyone who wishes to lead a walk to apply. M. Robie wrote back to the Eastford CC informing them that we would be willing to help out with projects at Crystal Pond. It was brought up that the parking lot at Town Hall is being repaved as it is in serious disrepair and needs to be expanded. The WCC was disappointed that no environmentally friendly options (such as permeable concrete) were considered, and apparently the project is too far along at this point.

10. Adjournment –A.J. Purcell motioned, C. Adams seconded, meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Note: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Conservation Commission. Please refer to minutes from the next meeting for approval/amendments. Respectfully submitted by G. Jacobson, WCC Secretary