

Water Mill Citizens Advisory Committee
PO Box 880
Water Mill, NY, 11976
watermillcac@gmail.com

Minutes for February 9, 2026

Members: Olivia Motch, Jim Weidner, Rachel Verno, Alan Harper (Zoom), Rik Kristiansson (Zoom), Jamie Egerton Warburton (Zoom), Gloria Rabinowitz (Zoom)

Guests: Councilman Tom Neely, Community Preservation Director Jacqueline Fenlon, Carl Carlson/Director LaGuardia Design Group, Patti Halsey Wellen, Johanna Halsey, Cindy Corwith, Helen Verno (Zoom)

Minutes for December 8, 2026 and January 12, 2026 approved

Park at Mill Creek:

-Jacquie explained the history of the park including timeline for the initial purchase, the purchase of the additional parcels and then the setback upon learning about the wetland area that prompted a change in the parking area.

-Discussed what is involved in the road abandonment and the burying of the utility lines. The road abandonment will require DOT permits. The current utility lines service a large area both north and south of the highway. All utilities have been contacted. When the lines are eventually buried there will be a necessary right of way located across the park property in order to access any future service.

-These two projects will take time to coordinate and execute and a decision has been made to move forward in phases. The first phase will involve the property to the east of the road fronting Mill Creek. Trees have already been tagged for removal and that process was started by CPF staff and will continue with a hired tree company. Some invasive plants will be removed, but the plan is to leave this area as natural as possible.

-Carl discussed the site plan (the plan has not changed) and we discussed lighting which will be minimal and the parking, handicap access, the different paths, fishing docks and kayak rack. There will be an access from the sidewalk along the highway and one of the paths will be paved to be ADA compliant. Discussed different options for materials that could be considered that would be in keeping with the natural feel.

-The final plan will have a low post and rail fence. Discussed the possibility of having something installed along the highway as part of this first phase. CPF has a standard wood post and rail that they use on their properties and they will explore installing that. It would be eventually replaced when the other phases of the project are completed.

-The concept of the phases is that only work that will not have to be torn up when it's time for the other phases will be executed.

-CAC members discussed the potential of having sidewalks run contiguously from the park all the way west to the Parrish and the idea of a crosswalk in the Cobb Road area.

-Also discussed replacing the metal barricades installed by the DOT at the culvert with wood.

Land Disturbance Legislation:

-Councilman Iasilli is proposing legislation to address and restrict the clearing on properties over 1/2 acre.

- The legislation hopes to address the problem of builders/developers clearing property of all vegetation and old growth trees prior to ever going before the planning board.
- Depending of the size of the property the legislation lays out what would be required before clearing a property in preparation for building.
- It will also address staging areas/parking for larger projects, fines for not getting the appropriate permits, stop work orders and exceptions in the case of fire hazards, hurricanes and/or rotted trees.
- There will be a public hearing on March 24 at 6pm.
- The CAC and community members who were present had a few questions but everyone supported the intent of this legislation.

Other Business:

- Firehouse update. Fire Department and Fire District Commissioners are discussing the North Sea property as a location for a new firehouse.
- Work session for the CHF overlay district revealed that the Suffolk County Health Department is only permitting 20-25 units. Janice Scherer and James Burke will meet with the County to discuss. Janice has asked Dave Gallo for site plans. A public hearing for the overlay district will not be held until there is an accurate site plan for the community to comment on.
- Signage/Sculptures.. There is a proliferation of signage and sculptures at a number of properties in the hamlet. In the past CAC members have contacted property owners to discuss but members have decided to contact code enforcement. All agree that the town needs to decide how many sculptures and temporary signs can be on a property. The CAC wants to encourage new businesses in the hamlet but feel some guidelines should be established.
- One member asked about the development company who expressed interest purchasing Market Square and Water Mill Shoppes. CAC will send an email to Clare Shea to see if there is any update.

Minutes taken by Rachel Verno