

Westminster Conservation Commission meeting

January 31, 2019

7:15 p.m.

Westminster Institute Lower Level Library room

Present: Arthur Davis, Stephen Major, Doug Oftedahl (Westminster Planning Commission, lister), Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Libby Mills, Rachael Shaw (secretary)

1. **Call to Order at 7:30 pm**

2. **Adjustments to Agenda**

note to table unfinished business items for now

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes from December 13, 2018

Minutes read and accepted by unanimous consent.

4. **Communications and Public Comment:**

Rachael Cohen may be interested in joining.

Karen Walter would like to come to a meeting but could not make it today.

5. **Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action)**

(Tabled for tonight)

a.) Discuss our input to Town Plan

b) Follow-up re herbicide use in Westminster

c) Follow-up discussion concerning town tree warden position

6. **New Business (Discussion / Action)**

a) Follow-up from meeting with Rockingham Conservation Commission members
12/13/18.

Regarding involvement in Saxtons River Trail Initiative/Basin Farm Bridge: we would like to be kept informed of what is happening.

Per their recommendation, we will set up a WestminsterConservationCommission@gmail.com account. Arthur will create the account for us.

b) Discuss reporting requirements for watershed grant

Tatiana will send us a copy of the reporting requirements that she got from the state.

c) Discuss report from Jeff Littleton. We had all read the draft report.

Questions/suggestions

1. Libby will send Arthur a photo of her winter wetland to send to Jeff for use in final report, if needed.

2. Tatiana noted that she had come across a study that had been done in 2013, called the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Town of Westminster which covered some of the same issues that our grant covered. We would like to make sure that Jeff is aware of the info from this plan, as

well as the VLT (Vermont Land Trust) wetland studies and the Town of Rockingham Flood Mitigation plan. He may want to incorporate some of this info into his final report.

3. A few notes for Jeff:

Find out if Jeff has access to the above mentioned reports.

Make sure that the WRC gets credit in the acknowledgements for their mapping contributions.

Make sure Jeff's intern Laura gets credit in the acknowledgements for her work.

Ask Jeff to include statistics about how much water trees hold, if possible.

Ask Jeff how the results of the November community forum informed his work/report, with details if possible.

Notes from that forum could be edited a bit before being included in the report.

Ask Jeff if he could clarify the seven factors he took into account when evaluating wetlands.

Extend our sincere appreciation to Jeff and his team for this interesting report.

Tatiana collected our comments and suggestions and will forward them to Jeff.

d) Plan second forum for Watershed grant for late February or mid March.

The date we chose is Thursday March 14, as that seemed to be the best day for everyone.

We need to book a room in the Institute.

This PR article needs to be written up and we need to get publicity out to the papers by Feb 21.

We could both publicize the last forum and do a one page summary of the grant project/results for Town Meeting.

7. **Other Business:** Stephen noted that when this project ends, we need to revisit our commitment to the Town Forest trails, which we are all on board with.

8. **Set Date of Next Meeting:**

Next WCC meeting will be Thursday February 28, 2019 at 7:15 pm

Date of Final Forum presentation March 14

Date of March meeting: March 28

9. **Adjournment at 9:00 pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw, secretary