

Westminster Conservation Commission meeting
Westminster Institute, North Room.
2/28/2019 7:15 pm

Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Rachael Shaw (secretary), Arthur Davis, Stephen Major, Doug Oftedahl (Planning commission)

Note: This meeting was held at the Westminster Institute due to construction at the Town Hall

1. Call to Order at 7:20 p.m.
2. Adjustments to Agenda

Add in Watershed grant forum publicity at Town Meeting to publicity section of new business.
Add back in Town Plan work to "on hold" issues

3. Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes from January 31st read and accepted by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment: none
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) a.) Reporting requirements for watershed grant - review
Arthur will take photos at the forum.
We will need a copy of Jeff's hours and a statement of our in-kind (volunteer) hours for the report for the state.
b) Discuss earlier issues put "on hold" – decide when/if we will revisit them:
*herbicide use

Tatiana mentioned that the Saxtons River Watershed Collaborative is prioritizing invasive species removal, and we are interested in whether they plan to use herbicides (Round up/ glyphosate). Definitely still interested in encouraging non-chemical means of dealing with Japanese knotweed and other invasives. Tatiana recently heard about Mike Bald's non-chemical and labor intensive strategy. It's a complicated issue. We will put this on the agenda for April to have a more comprehensive discussion.

*tree warden position (position appointed by the Select Board)

Doug will ask Mark Lund at Town Meeting if he wishes to continue as tree warden.

*Town Forest trail work: we are all interested in continuing to pursue this.

Planning a group forest excursion would be a good place to start.

*Input to Town Plan along with Town Planning Commission: reassign tasks, and make sure this is a priority on our upcoming agendas, starting in April. We could review section by section. Doug said we should try to have a draft of our suggested inputs by October 2019.

*WCC membership

Stephen will ask Russ to ask the Selectboard to reappoint him to the WCC. Tatiana has forwarded updated information on WCC members to the Town Hall, as the membership info in the town report was not accurate.

6. New Business (Discussion / Action)

a) Plan March 14th report-back event on wetlands and forests for flood resilience

We will be using the main hall of the Institute. We will set up in a U-shape in a corner of the space, so that the participants can see and hear in a smaller area.

Tatiana will ask Jeff to bring sandwich boards to display maps, and to bring about 30 copies of the report to hand out if possible.

Collect email addresses and offer to send out e-copies of the report to attendees.

Refreshments:

Tatiana: cider and apples

Rachael: small cups, crackers, cheese

Arthur: small plates

Set up at 6:15, Doug offered to help with set-up.

Event will run 7:00 pm -8:30 pm.

Event Publicity (town meeting and other):

Arthur will make slight adjustment to the poster, enlarging the photo.

Tatiana will make 150-200 copies of the poster for the back of the room.

Stephen will announce the program at Town Meeting during the Public comment/announcements section.

Rachael will send information to Dummerston Conservation Commission.

Arthur will send to the Front Porch Forum.

Rachael will put up posters in Putney and Saxtons River.

7. Other Business: none at this time.

8. Date of Next Meeting: March 28th, 2019

We will be working on our final report for the Watershed Grant at this meeting.

9. Adjournment at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachael Shaw, secretary