

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Meeting, Thursday, Oct 24, 2019 at 7:15 P.M.**

Location: Westminster Institute – please note we will meet at the Institute until further notice.

1. **Call to Order** at 7:20 pm

Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Rachael Shaw (secretary), Arthur Davis, Stephen Major, Naomi Craig.

2. **Adjustments to Agenda: none**

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes from September 26th  
Minutes read and accepted by unanimous consent.

4. **Communications and Public Comment: none**

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

a.) Watershed grant – final disposition of grant, and follow-up work  
Arthur got Tatiana final receipts, and she will make sure he gets the disbursement from the grant. We have 3 new copies and Tatiana will hold on to them for now. Tatiana suggests that a priority for next year (for the WCC) should be further environmental assessment of forest lands.

b) “Invasive” species – non-chemical control brochure – review progress  
Arthur has received information on bittersweet, buckthorn, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, and poison ivy. Tatiana will draft an introduction that will include some discussion of term invasive. Tatiana will write up something on goutweed and knotweed. Naomi offered to draw some illustrations. Make sure we all get our sources to Arthur. We will have it all done by January meeting, so that it can be produced in time for Town Meeting in March. We can work on it offline before January. It will be fairly concise, half page per species.

c) Town Plan recommendations – review progress on assigned sections.  
We could all send our comments to one person so that they could be compiled. Arthur had some comments/suggestions for the Land Use Plan section which we reviewed. Tatiana has some suggestions for the Agriculture section. There should be some research done to figure out the current statistics on numbers of organic and conventional farms, with mention of those that follow organic/ecological methods but are not certified organic. Tatiana will create a Town Plan document and collate our suggested changes in bold or in parentheses. Tatiana will ask Craig Allen (Allen Brothers Farm) and Paul Harlow (Harlow Farm) to review the Agriculture section. Rachael will send Stephen an email that includes the Energy section for him to edit and send to Tatiana.

e) Town Forest trail work: discussed potential trail and kiosk locations

f) Beaver deceiver celebration/education event: Rachael will let everyone know when the date has been set for the children’s program so that we can publicize it for those who can make a 1 pm event. We are hopeful that Skip Lisle will be able to come to the kid’s program in early November. We will plan another educational celebration event in the Spring for the general community.

g) cyanobacteria issue – any new information? No new information yet.  
Postponed this item.

h) invitation to Road Crew to attend next meeting? Tatiana will invite them to our December meeting for 7:15-7:45, we will get here a bit early. We will bring cider.

i) Budget request to town – discuss projects that need funding, draft budget. Stephen and Arthur will work on trail/town forest (trail markers, kiosks, printing maps) budget, Rachael and Tatiana on budget for educational programs, Naomi will work on budget for brochures.

j) Article about WCC for Town Report - need to get short paragraph about our accomplishments done by January 1, 2020. Rachael and Tatiana will get together to work on this.

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

**(All: Please)** Look at recent newsletter from Dummerston CC (that Rachael sent in an email) and brainstorm ideas for future events we could sponsor – including those to celebrate and educate around our natural resources in Westminster. Rachael would like to do an ephemeral wildflower walk in May.

7. **Other Business: none**

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday December 5, 2019 7:15 (4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving)

9. **Adjournment at 8:35 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by,  
Rachael Shaw, secretary