

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Meeting, Thursday, Dec 5th 2019 at 7:15 P.M.*

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

Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Arthur Davis, Naomi Craig, Rachael Shaw, Stephen Major

1. **Call to Order: meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m.**

2. **Adjustments to Agenda**

Add in question about whether we would all like to get the emails that are sent to the WCC gmail account. (i)

Add in question about who would like to attend the Regional Conservation Commission meeting on Monday Dec 9 at 5:30 at the Marlboro Town Community Center. (j)

3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes from October 24<sup>th</sup>  
Minutes read and accepted by unanimous consent.

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

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

a) Invasive species – non-chemical control brochure – review progress

We decided to create 50 copies of a 5.5 x 8.5 booklet with card stock cover. The 6 species we are focusing on are Multiflora Rose, Oriental Bittersweet, Poison Ivy, Buckthorn, Goutweed, Japanese Knotweed. Each species will have the same structure in the booklet. Tatiana presented her excellent introduction which we all approved.

Structure of page for each species:

1. Illustration by Naomi
2. Common and Latin name of plant
3. General habit of the plant
4. Priorities for control (given a finite amount of time and energy)  
eg focus on removing fruit bearing buckthorn trees first
5. Non-chemical methods of control

Naomi will get printing cost estimates. This format leaves open the option of doing the printing and stapling ourselves. All should send in our information in the structure outlined above to Arthur ASAP.

b) Town Plan recommendations – review progress on assigned sections

The Energy section has recently been completed and is not a section that we will be contributing to. Need to let Michael Daley know this. Rachael and Tatiana created a google document which has the relevant sections of the Town Plan in it. We can all sign in and make comments and suggested edits on this document.

c) Town Forest trail work - discuss budget (see section g)

d) Beaver deceiver celebration/education event – report back from event

Rachael reports that on Wednesday, November 6, she and Kathy Kingston led six 6th graders and their teacher Emily Lisai on a walking field trip to the beaver wetland and beaver deceiver installation in Westminster West village. It was well received by the Studio Y students and staff, and they would love to have another such program in the Spring.

e) cyanobacteria issue – any new information?

Tatiana will call the State Department of Environmental Conservation to ask about any

updates on the Henwood Hill. Presently the bacteria is hibernating under the snow and ice.

f) invitation to Road Crew to attend January meeting ( change to February meeting and hope for amenable weather that night)

g) Budget request to town – discuss projects that need funding, draft budget

We came up with the following items/projects/budget figures:

1. Non-chemical control brochure/booklet: @ \$4.00 each, so 50 would cost \$200

2. One kiosk ( cost approximately \$150 in materials) will contain 3 pressure treated 4 x 4s and half sheet plywood, several rafters and pressure treated boards.

3. Signage for town forest trails: \$225.

4. Map of town forest trails: (\$50, Windham Regional Commission)

5. Three Educational activities including Spring beaver deceiver educational event, a May ephemeral walk, and another TBD (publicity posters, refreshments) \$90

Total budget \$715

Rachael will call Town Hall to try to get this budget item included in the Selectboard agenda for the Dec 11 meeting. If so, Tatiana and Stephen will attend the meeting to present the budget.

h) Article about WCC for Town Report – outline key points – assign

Rachael and Tatiana will get together to write that. It needs to be in by early January.

i.) gmail account: Arthur, Naomi and Rachael are willing to receive the emails from the WCC gmail account.

We will each go in and set up access to these emails.

j. Naomi and Tatiana plan to carpool to the regional meeting.

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

Look at recent newsletter from Dummerston CC and brainstorm ideas for future events we could sponsor – including those to celebrate and educate around our natural resources in Westminister.

We have ideas for several educational activities including Spring beaver deceiver educational event, a May ephemeral walk, another Westminister Town Forest walk, and possibly others.

7. **Other Business:**

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:15 pm

9. **Adjournment at 8:45 pm.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Rachael Shaw, secretary