

## WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 1/13/2022 at 7:15 P.M.

Location – Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85416817815?pwd=N2prRFVvRjVkJN3FPV1pmZkdQVTIzdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 1681 7815

Passcode: 497897

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 7:15

Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Rachael Shaw (secretary), Alma Beals, Kestrel Craig, Sarah Waldo,

2. Adjustments to Agenda 3 min

In New Business, add in a discussion of articles we could write.

3. Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes of 10/28/21 accepted and approved by unanimous consent.

4. Communications and Public Comment: none

5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –

a) Problematic/Invasive species brochure – review - 30 Some documents are missing from the Google Drive, we will try to track them down. Perhaps Arthur Davis can access them, as he created the drive. Tatiana is going to write a new entry on bindweed. Kestrel will send Tatiana a version of the PDF of the booklet that can be edited. Kestrel will complete the cover drawing. Tatiana will forward the final draft to the Commission when it's done. Printing should happen at the end of January, ideally.

b) Website for Conservation Commission – progress. A student from Compass may be helpful in creating the website during Project Week. Tatiana will contact Eric Rhomberg about that. We can all collect information and photos for the website and put them on the Google Drive, but save a copy.

c) Public/Educational activities – Allen Marsh forum? To Join the Friends of the Allen Marsh Facebook group, one could connect with Colleen Lawlor. In the Spring, the State is going to check out water quality (possible agricultural runoff) and invasive plant species. Alma reported that there are 8 joint owners of the Marsh, and 7 out of 8 do not support trapping/killing.. A moderator would be critical in any forum to facilitate most productive conversation on best ways to support conservation of the flora and fauna of the marsh. Sarah mentioned a possibility of an educational presentation as part of a forum. Could focus perhaps on reptiles, and invite a herpetologist or reptile enthusiast such as Mike Clough (from the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum) who could do a presentation/overview as part of the forum, which would be in April. Proposed date is Sunday afternoon 2-4 on April 24. If he couldn't do it, maybe he would know someone else who could. Alma will contact Marie Caduto, Tatiana will contact Michelle Bos-Lun.

d) follow-up on beaver deceiver performance. Rachael will contact Kevin

Brennan and ask him about the beaver activity in the village/culvert area. Following that, Tatiana will check in with Chuck Lawrence, road foreman, about their interactions with that culvert.

6. New Business:

a) Additional public/educational events-ask Kathy Kingston and Martha Mitchell about a date for a winter tracking workshop in early February (6th or the 13th) on a Sunday afternoon. It would be nice to have some kids involved, Lise Cavanaugh could possibly help publicize it. Rachael and Sarah will follow up with organizing the tracking workshop.

b) Grant possibilities- all keep our eyes open for grant options and projects.

c.) Ideas for articles Rachael wrote an article called "Take the Speed Limit Challenge" which was published in the Gazette in November. Rachael will write one on reducing the footprint of our lawns for the Spring; we could all collaborate on it. If we mention that we are a member of the WCC when an article is published, we need to first share that article with the WCC.

7. Other Business:

Sarah Waldo will join the WCC, and she will write a letter to the Select board to formally request appointment to our Commission. Welcome Sarah!

8. Date of Next Meeting: Feb 24, 2022 Place TBD

9. Adjournment at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Rachael Shaw, secretary