

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 3/24/2022 at 7:15 P.M.

Location – Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82115971938?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82115971938?pwd=RW5NYnYrMHN3VFdsY1pmVzF4RlgwQT09)

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Meeting ID: 821 1597 1938

Passcode: 563190 or call in at

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

1. Call to Order Meeting called to order at 7:18 PM
Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair) , Stephen Major (vice-chair), Sarah Waldo, Alma Beals, Rachael Shaw (secretary).
2. Adjustments to Agenda: Add in to New Business: Discuss creation of some official rules/guidelines for the WCC.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 2/24/2022 - Minutes accepted as corrected (Milbery property, not Milbank property) Rachael will send corrected minutes to Kelley.
4. Communications and Public Comment: Jane Fitzwilliam may be interested in joining the WCC. Tatiana will be sure to invite her to our April meeting, and apologize for forgetting to send her notice about our March meeting.
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
 - a) Invasive species brochure – status : Tatiana will be working on it this weekend, and will call Kestrel about the cover. If possible we will get it printed for the April 30 in person Town Meeting.
 - b) Website for Conservation Commission – discuss content :
Names of our Members (contact would be our WCC gmail address)
Include a link to the Wetlands/Upland Forests Report
Include a link to the Invasive Species Brochure
Minutes, Agendas, Articles, Programs
Info about Beaver Deceiver
“Coming Events” (schedule)

Photos

Our information would be a sub-page of the Town Website.

Who maintains the Town Website? Rachael will ask Kelley.

Upload any information and photos to our Google Drive.

c) Allen Marsh forum - status : Michele Bos-Lun is open to moderating (goal is to hear different perspectives, not come up with consensus). Tatiana will check in with Michele about June/July/August dates. Michele thought that it would be good to have a person knowledgeable about beavers present. State Wildlife Biologist Kim Royer might be a possibility as an expert. Sarah will contact her and ask if she could be present, and ask if day or evening would be better. Marie Caduto will also be present to share data. One of us could do the introduction and overview because we are hosting/sponsoring, not taking positions. Sarah wonders what happens after the information is collected. We could make a report to the Selectboard, or we could get a recommendation to the Planning Commission for Town Plan. We have to invite people to come and make sure they know that their voice will be heard. As we don't know what perspectives will emerge at the forum, next steps are unknown at this time. It may be that subsequent meetings will happen, or working groups established.

d) beaver deceiver performance: Chuck Lawrence, Road Foreman, reports that the Beaver Deceiver at Wright Way has helped the Town Crew lower maintenance needs. He noted that a neighbor is doing some maintenance and acknowledges that this is required, but believes it is significantly less than before the beaver deceiver was installed. He would like to see a few more. First priorities in his mind, were Allen Marsh and Beebe Road.] We can make a recommendation to the Town Planning Commission, and we could also advocate for a second or third one with Chuck's recommendation. Chuck also mentioned that it would be good to have a parking area for people who are there to observe. We will make sure to invite him to the forum.

e) Articles for Gazette: Tatiana has information that she will share with Rachael about alternatives for lawns.

f) May ephemeral flowers walk – plans: May 8 noon-2 pm, Maximum 16 participants (but flexible). PR went out to the Gazette. Rachael, Sarah and Alma will coordinate with the Milbery's, each other and the Hidden Springs Trails.

6. New Business:

Demonstration, shared google docs for new members – 10 (Will discuss at a future meeting)

Rules for the WCC ? We now have 6 members, and with a larger group it may be useful to adopt some guidelines, based on options provided by the State guidelines for Commissions template. A Vermont Statute says that Conservation Commissions should have between 3 and 9 members. We may want to discuss ideal number of members, and how many meetings (consecutive or per year) that a member can miss. (Tatiana will send out template to members and we will discuss at a future meeting).

7. Other Business - none.
8. Date of Next Meeting: April 28, 2022. Location will be on Zoom.
9. Adjournment at 8:38 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw, secretary.