

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 12/01/22 at 7:15 P.M

Location: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82618815847>

Meeting ID: 826 1881 5847

One tap mobile

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

1. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 7:18 pm.
Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Rachael Shaw (secretary), Kestrel Craig, Alma Beals, Stephen Major, Kathy Kingston.
2. Adjustments to Agenda:
Stephen Major will say a few words during Communication.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 9/22/2022
Tatiana read minutes from 9/22/22. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment: Stephen has resigned from the Conservation Commission. He has too many conflicts in his schedule to effectively participate. Stephen noted that he appreciates all the work that we have been doing in the past years, although he suggests finishing projects that are underway before starting too many new ones. He is willing to help on Town Forest endeavors in the future, when we are working on them. Stephen will let the Selectboard know that he is officially resigning.

Kathy Kingston plans to attend one more meeting and then decide if she wants to join the WCC. She has an interest in animal crossings data, and Act 171 (Forest Fragmentation/Maintenance of contiguous forest tracts). We will add this topic (collecting animal crossings data) to next meeting's agenda.

5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
 - a) Invasive species brochure – status quo. Tatiana plans to finish up for our January 2023 deadline (in time to print for Town Meeting)
 - b) Website for Conservation Commission – Rachael will send an email to Letitia re: WCC info on Town website that has not yet been added.
 - c) Article re road, vegetation issues – Tatiana will run the article by Chuck and send it in to the Gazette by the deadline for their December issue.
 - d) Guidelines for Commission meetings –
 - i. go over proposed guidelines and adopt if quorum present. Tatiana reviewed the open meeting guidelines for commissions such as ours, that have been developed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VCLT) Model Rules of Procedure for Municipal Bodies. We all agreed to these guidelines and Tatiana, Kestrel, Alma and Rachael e-signed and dated the document.

6. New Business:

- a) De-brief from Henwood Hill /Allen marsh forum and next steps –

Everyone agreed it was a valuable opportunity for coalition building around stewardship of the marsh, and we appreciated the participation of the facilitator, John Ungerleider, and the presenters, Marie Levesque Caduto, Cassidy Gale, and Chris Bernier.

Alma gave a brief report. She had everyone sign in, and there were 31 participants, mostly wildlife enthusiasts. In her presentation, Marie reported that there were high salt and phosphorus numbers in recent water quality tests. She was able to recruit two volunteers (Melinda Underwood and Mick Abbott) to collect samples for water testing. Time ran short, so VT Fish and Wildlife Furbearer biologist Chris Bernier did not have enough time to share all the information he would have liked to present. Kestrel noted that she made recordings of Marie and Cassidy's presentation but needs to improve the audio. We need to figure out how to make this video available to the public (link to a YouTube channel?). Rachael will get Kestrel Letitia's email address (Town website coordinator) One of our next steps could be to plan an information session (at the Rockingham Free Public Library) so Chris Bernier could give a full presentation. Another is to possibly write an article for the Gazette on the marsh forum. Further, we will familiarize ourselves with current regulatory issues. Kestrel will do some preliminary research.

7. Other Business:

Add recruitment of new members to the agenda of the next meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan 26, 2023 7:15 pm, via Zoom.
December meeting is cancelled, due to holidays.
9. Adjournment at 8:39 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw, secretary