

Meeting, Thursday, 3/2/23 at 7:15 P.M  
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Meeting ID: 852 6069 7257

1. Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 7:18 pm  
Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Kathy Kingston, Kestrel Craig, Rachael Shaw, Sarah Waldo. Guests: Michael Daley, Patti Smith, Oliver Brody
2. Adjustments to Agenda: New business will be discussed before Unfinished business.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 2/2/23 – Minutes read and accepted by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment: none
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
  - a) Invasive species brochure – no change. Tatiana will send info to Kestrel.
  - b) Website for Conservation Commission – Unfortunately, the person who was paid to work on the website did not complete the work. Kelley Thayer said that any materials can be sent to her and she will add them to the website.
  - c) Furbearing event at Rockingham library - Thursday March 9 at 7 pm.  
Everything is in place, might be a need for a person to help with set-up. Chris Bernier will bring his own equipment. We could come a little early if desired. The Rockingham Library is doing publicity. Alma will introduce Chris Bernier. Chris will introduce the new biologist (Brie, who replaced Kim Royar).
  - d) Tracking event: Snowshoes available at the Westminster West Library, open 10-12 on Saturday. Rachael will check in with Martha to see if she needs anything else. Rachael will send PR to Alison Latham for the Whistler. Rachael will send PR to Sarah to send to the Front Porch Forum.
6. New Business:

a) Potential proposal for ARPA funds (all money has to be spent by 2026) –  
Local resident and LEAG (Living Earth Action Group) member Michael Daley holds a vision for a healthy co-existence with the beavers and their flowages in Westminster West, and wants to further community education about beavers and the value that beaver activity brings to the village. This may include advocating for more beaver deceivers/flow devices to be installed, and also creating a local beaver census. Possible places for flow devices: Fellows Road, Beebe Road, Firehouse (Wright Way), Henwood Hill/Allen Marsh.

b ) Potential collaboration with BEEC on road management plan for beaver co-existence – Patti Smith

Bonnyvale has been approached by BroadReach Institute, an organization in Maine that does work to support beaver activity nationally. She is thinking about submitting a proposal in April that will involve developing educational and policy guidance for municipalities to support co-existence with beavers, partnering with two towns: Halifax and possibly Westminster. Patti has several ideas, one is to consult with a hydrologist (Denise Burchsted) that works at Keene State and can help assess the value and/or risk factors of a particular dam construction. Another is to have a beaver festival in Westminster West. Patti can help with language for the ARPA proposal. She can also reach out to Denise to ask her about assessing the various dam structures of Westminster West. This could be part of the ARPA proposal. We created a WCC sub-committee of Kathy and Sarah who will meet with Patti and Michael to work out details of the ARPA proposal and the BroadReach proposal, which could complement each other. The WCC agrees that we can support these projects.

Any project proposals should include the input of Road Crew foreman Chuck Lawrence, and should have the approval of the Selectboard.

c) Recruitment of new Commission members : If any of us meet potential new Commission members, we could invite them to attend a meeting. The maximum number to be effective would be 7 members (4 for a quorum), though the present number of 5 works well, especially with the addition of community members to support various projects. Kathy K. has not officially joined the WCC yet but plans to, and will submit a note to the Selectboard shortly.

7. Other Business: Add the Town Forest to the April meeting agenda.  
Could do an ephemeral wildflower walk in the Town Forest.
8. Date of Next Meeting: 3/23 or 3/30 (TBD) 7:15 PM , Location, TBD
9. Adjournment at 8:35 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Rachael Shaw, secretary.