

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Meeting, Thursday, 5/25/23 at 7:15 P.M

1. Call to Order  
Tatiana called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Sarah Waldo, Rachael Shaw, Kathy Kingston, Absent: Kestrel Craig
2. Adjustments to Agenda: postpone Ash tree survey discussion, postpone the Higgins dam removal report, postpone comments on AG section of TP. Add a brief discussion about Google Drive access issues under new business.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 4/27/23 –Minutes accepted by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment:
  - a) Peter Bergstrom had commented during the ephemeral walk that the Rockingham CC and the Rockingham Energy Committee had to advocate for themselves to attain the option to comment on Solar Siting proposals. Solar siting should be mentioned in the Town Plan under the Energy section. Kathy will contact Bari Shamas, chair of the Planning Commission, to ask if it's possible for the WCC to be consulted when proposals for solar development come up.
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
  - a) Invasive species brochure –postponed, discuss again next month.
  - b) Website for Conservation Commission –nothing new to report. Tatiana has given Kelley access to our Google drive.
  - c) BEEC/Broadreach proposal –no update. Kathy will call Patti.
  - d) brief report-back May 2 program on riparian buffers- Sarah will write up a press release for the Gazette to report on that. Very interesting topic. There are state resources available to do a volunteer-

based planting project; we could possibly do one next Spring if we begin planning it this fall.

e) brief report-back May 6 wildflower walk- very successful and pleasant, though a small group. Article on the walk came out today in the Gazette with a photo of the participants looking at ephemerals.

f) Comments on NR section of TP - We made comments on the Natural Resources section of the TP as a group using a document on Google Drive. Tatiana will ask the Rich Earth folks if they have any suggested language to go into Town Plans regarding management of human waste to reduce impacts on septic systems and water (both groundwater and surface water). Sarah will read through our Wetland/Upland Forests Flood Resiliency report and note any sections that could be useful to include in the TP, forwarding that info to Kathy.

g) Comments on AG section of TP - postponed

6. New Business:

a) CC involvement in ash tree survey, re Emerald Ash Borer - postponed

b) Brief report-back Higgins dam removal - postponed.

c) BEEC funding for beaver deceiver -Kathy will contact Chuck Lawrence and ask about the dam location on the northern end of the Henwood Marsh. Sarah will be willing to meet Chuck and the landowner there and invite Patti Smith to join her.

d) Google drive access issues- Kathy will contact Kestrel and try to resolve access to the Google drive issues.

7. Other Business: none

8. Date of Next Meeting: 6/22/23 7:15 Location, TBD

9. Adjournment. Tatiana moved we adjourn, and Sarah seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Rachael Shaw

