

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 3/28/24 at 7:00 P.M via Zoom

1. Call to Order : meeting called to order at 7 pm.
Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Kathy Kingston, Kestrel Craig, Sarah Waldo, Rachael Shaw (secretary).
2. Adjustments to Agenda. Add the following to Other Business:
 - Approve Green up day
 - Add our meetings to calendar on town website
 - Add our mission statement to the town website
 - New members
 - Remove part 5f)
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 2/22/24
Minutes read. Kathy moved we accept the minutes, Sarah seconded, minutes approved by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment:
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
 - a) Beaver Working Group/BEEC program – status, follow-up from event - well attended event. Presentations from Denise Burchsted, Skip Lisle, Patti Smith, and Chuck Lawrence. It was very positive and educational, with interesting discussion. Moonlight beaver observation walk (meet on 600 Daigle Road on Sunday April 21 7 pm.). BWG still deciding where to put in flow device that grant has funding for.
 - b) Natural Resources section of TP – schedule work meeting. Kathy will check with the Planning Commission to see if they would like us to present them with a draft of the sections we have been working on.
 - c) Other programs/projects – follow up
 1. Ephemeral walk- Saturday April 28, 1-2:30 at a private homeowner's property in Westminster West. Date subject to change. PR in Westminster Gazette, West Parish Whistler.
 2. wildlife corridors- remove from next month's agenda. Kathy will call Ann Kerry. We will revisit this project when we have more information.
 3. riparian buffer project- Tatiana asked former SEVCA employee Kevin Brennan about a good SEVCA contact, he mentioned Vic Baisley- wildlife biologist who works there. Tatiana wrote to Vic asking him about doing a riparian buffer project on SEVCA's land if applicable there. If they express interest, we can further explore that site.
 4. biodiversity inventories- Linda Lemke and Linda Hecker from Guilford would have information on how that was done. Sarah will try to reach out to them if she has time. Remove from agenda for next month. We will revisit this project when we have more information.

- d) Church planting update (NRCD- May, Fedco- April, Gino Palmeri- June). Reimbursement for the plants we purchased was received.
- e) ANR initiative 30/30, 50/50 Discussion of the Conservation Commission Focus Group that happened on 3/27/24. There is a recording available at the Association of Vermont Conservation Commission's website. Sarah will share a google doc of the Shared Notes from the session. Many points raised, and interesting discussion happened in 3 smaller break-out groups, charged with discussing 3 questions involving a) Conservation Commission funding, b) state policies that could be improved, and c) what have conservation commissions learned at the community level that could be applied to Act 59?
- f) VCRD community visioning - how would CC be involved? - remove this from discussion as we covered it last meeting.
- g) Town Forest management -Tatiana contacted Town Manager Lou Bordeaux asking about the name and size of the Town Forest and confirming our current understanding that our role is advisory. Decide whether or when we want to revisit working on trails/kiosk in the Town Forest. WCC Field trip: early summer. Invite Roger Haydock to help design trails. Invite Steven Major for any field trip. Plan walk for June?
- h) AVCC Survey, tiny grants, deadline April 5. Too rushed to pull something together at this time. Tatiana contacted Lou Bordeaux about our joining the AVCC (Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions), with a fee of \$50 per year. He agreed that we can join and should submit invoice to him.

6. New Business: none

7. Other Business:

- a. Approve WCC Coordination of Green up day (suggested by the Town). Sarah moved that the WCC coordinate Green Up Day for the Town of Westminster. Kestrel seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent. Sarah, Rachael and Kestrel will work together to make sure that all the Green Up Day (Saturday May 4) tasks are completed.

- b. Add our meetings to calendar on town website- Sarah will ask Lou about this.

- c. Add our mission statement to the town website. Tatiana will send our mission statement to all of us and we can approve it at the next meeting.

- d. New members? Brief discussion about this. Add this to the agenda for next meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting: April 25th 7 PM (meet in person?)

9. Adjournment at 8:45.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw, secretary