

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 7/25/24 at 7:00 P.M
Westminster Institute, in person meeting

1. Call to Order- meeting called to order at 7:10 pm.
Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Sarah Waldo, Jim Calchera, Rachael Shaw.
2. Adjustments to Agenda: add agenda item concerning membership to New Business.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 6/27/24 –Rachael moved that the minutes be accepted. Minutes accepted by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment: Town Manager Lou Bordeaux requested that we attend a Selectboard meeting to give them an update on CC activity. The Conservation Commission has been invited to attend the August 13 meeting (Election Day?) at 6:30 pm. Tatiana, Sarah(unless it's held on voting day) and Rachael will attend.
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
 - a) Beaver Working Group/BEEC program update –no updates.
 - b) Natural Resources section of TP – No new information. We can ask questions about the status of the Planning Commission (and the Town Plan?) when we attend the Selectboard meeting in August.
 - c) Church Planting maintenance – two Nanking Cherries are unwell but the Service berries have recovered. No need to water this weekend but possibly next weekend. Jim- Aug 5, Sarah- August 12, Rachael- Aug 18, Tatiana Aug 25, Jim Sept 9, Sarah- Sept 16, Rachael Sept 23, Tatiana Sept 30. Still need to resolve invoices for elderberries (Geno Palmieri), and plants that Kathy Kingston purchased.
 - d) Other programs/projects – follow up

1. riparian buffer project- Sarah will contact Cory Ross and follow up, and also Vic Baisley if needed.
 2. Biodiversity Inventory— Both Dummerston and Guilford have done extensive surveys. We are wondering how the Guilford biodiversity inventory (that Patty Smith oversaw) was funded, Sarah will follow up on that.
 3. Town forest planning- Jim met with forester Tim Morton and got some paperwork on the Westminster Town Forest Management plan. Sarah will take a look at the paperwork. Some of it is relevant to trail creation and to biodiversity information. Jim will upload the relevant documents that he scanned to the WCC google account. We will schedule a winter or early spring walk in the forest.
- e) Communication with other CCs – sending representative? -Jim willing to attend the Putney CC meeting (Anne Kerrey, chair), and Tatiana will ask Kestrel if she's willing to attend a Rockingham CC meeting.
- f) Open meeting law compliance -update. Tatiana will ask Alex of Vermont CC's to clarify the law as relates to advisory boards with budgets.
- g) Budget for conservation commission -
 Handbook of CC's suggests coming up with a proposed budget. Some potential items to include in the budget could be:
- Membership Dues for Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions. (50)
 - Educational Programming expenses and materials
 - Zoom pro annual fee (150). (Rachael will ask if we have access to the Town Zoom subscription).
 - Town Forest Recreational development, permit process for parking (Act 250 permit needed?)
 - Conference registration fees, travel.
6. New Business:

a) Pollinator event in August: Event scheduled for 11am-12:30 pm Saturday August 17, rain date August 18. Rachael will post in the Gazette, Sarah will post in the front porch forum in a couple weeks.

b. Membership: Welcome Jim, Farewell and thank you to Kathy.

7. Other Business: add programming brainstorm session to the September meeting agenda.

8. Date of Next Meeting: September 26 at the Westminster Institute 7 pm. (August recess)

9. Jim made motion to adjourn, Sarah seconded. Adjournment at 8:30 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw