

# WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 9/25/25 at 7:00 P.M

In person: Westminster Institute

To join by Zoom, contact

westminstervtconservation@gmail.com

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Kestrel Craig, Jim Calchera, Rachael Shaw (secretary), Amy Moreland (guest)

2. Adjustments to Agenda: No adjustments
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 8/28/25 –

Minutes read and accepted.

4. Communications and Public Comment: Welcome to Amy Moreland, resides in Westminster and works at Landmark College in Science and Technology administering a NSF grant in collaboration with CCV and Bennington College.

a) Email communications – Tatiana summarized recent submissions to our email inbox. Members are encouraged to review items in the AVCC, newsletters, and upcoming events folders. Some key items were:

i. Vermont Trails and Greenways conference Oct 8/9 Killington (we might want to follow up on panelists, etc. for future reference;

ii. AVCC Virtual Summit Recordings available. Kestrel and TS attended, will report back at next meeting. There was very little time for CC members to actually ask questions or engage in discussion but nice presentation of work of several CCs. Some interesting ideas. Full recording and write-up is now available on both AVCC [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

iii. Road salt education summit. UVM Extension This could be very useful! It's happening Thursday, October 9 from 9 AM (registration opens at 8:30 AM) to 3 PM at Outbound Stowe, 876 Mountain Rd, Stowe, VT. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.uvm.edu/seagrant/2025-road-salt-education-summit>

iv. Vermont Land Trust had an accessible trail building program 9/24. Moved to AVCC folder. Could be useful for contacts for us later.

v. Discussion on AVCC listserv about CCs advising on town plans, keeping in mind Vermont Conservation Design. Putney and Guilford Town Plans were recommended to look at. We may want to do so. Emails moved these to AVCC folder.

vi. Vermont Fish and Wildlife announced Fall webinar series. These all look interesting, especially the one on outreach to residents about celebrating woods, wetlands, and wildlife. Members encouraged to look at this and consider attending:

<https://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/Current%20Webinars%20%26%20Trainings>

vii. CT River Conservancy Source to Sea clean-up this weekend. Still time to join.  
<https://sourcetoseacleanup.org/?vcrmeid=JH5KEZVZ0OuKsJJ00QGnQ&vcrmiid=MUHMt83OQUGgmDlsDqTFPg> Also CT River Conservancy newsletter has many other interesting info. Moved to “newsletters” folder.

b) Rockingham CC minutes report: relevant notes from RCC meeting from September 15:

- i. They mentioned a State mandated municipal code of conduct online class which while we are not required to take, being an advisory board, it might still be useful to take it.
- ii. They reported no update on the Basin Farm Saxtons River alteration
- iii. They noted that a grant proposal was submitted to the town for Federal Transportation Alternatives funding to extend the Riverfront trail south to Westminster.

5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –

- a. Road salt issues – identifying sensitive areas - compile all data at next meeting. Jim will see if he can possibly attend the road salt education summit sponsored by UVM on Oct 9 in Stowe. Fee \$15. Can use our budget for this; we can reimburse for travel costs.
- b. Town Plan/Planning Commission listening sessions – update. No further information available. If any of us are available to attend the listening sessions, they are at two listening sessions have already been scheduled on Monday, Sept. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Westminster Institute/ Butterfield Library and Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 8 pm at Westminster West School/Studio Y.

c) Planting by church – signage and maintenance – Kestrel and Rachael will connect to look at wood options for the sign. Jim will pull out some 1 x 12 pine boards that Kestrel could practice carving on. We discussed a sign of approximately 4 feet long and 1 foot high, on posts 3 – 4 feet above ground. Tatiana will investigate and make recommendation for which plants to buy to replace the two that have died.

d) Town Forest

- i. Continue synthesis of public input from forum - Tatiana will begin compiling a report of what was said at the forum. At the next meeting we will create our WCC recommendations for next steps.
- ii. Potential trails at adjacent Ginnever property – Jodi Ginnever is interested in developing trails on her property (about 50 acres) with the trail network. This is at the end of Quarry Road. Jim will follow up with a phone conversation with Jodi and report back at our next meeting. Jodi would be looking for volunteers to develop these trails.

e) Birding event at SEVCA – final plans - publicity done, event is Friday October 3 8-10 am. Will follow up with an article for the Gazette. Take photos, keep a list of birds seen, take attendance with contact info.

6. New Business:

a) CC Budget- any changes for next fiscal year? Lou requested any updates on our budget (changes) by October 8. Tatiana made a motion that we keep the total budget amount the same but switch numbers to Trainings and Meetings: \$250, Supplies: \$500. Kestrel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business:
  - a) Potential change date of next meeting- switch to 5th Thursday so that Tatiana can attend.
8. Date of Next Meeting: October 30th, 7 pm. Westminster West Library
9. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Jim, Kestrel seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:41p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Rachael Shaw, secretary