

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 4/23/26 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 7:02 pm. Present: Jim Calchera, Amy Moreland, Tatiana Schreiber, Rachael Shaw. Guest: Mike McConnell

2. **Adjustments to Agenda- none**

3. **Acceptance of Minutes: 3/26/26** –Minutes read and accepted by unanimous consent.

4. **Communications and Public Comment:**

a) Email communications – In our Google drive under Newsletter and Public Comment Summaries. Tatiana and Amy reviewed the most recent public communication and newsletter highlights. There are **LOTS of emails about Act 181** (revision of Act 250). Much exchange of ideas. All emails moved to AVCC label. Several other articles and statements worth reading to educate ourselves on the legislation. Tatiana urged members to read some of these emails in advance of our next meeting where this will be on the agenda.

b) Rockingham CC minutes report -RCC is hosting nature walks. It would be good for us to connect and collaborate further with them.

5. **Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –**

- a. Town Plan input process – Mike McConnell WRC – He has progressed through about four sections. Mike clarified that the Town Plan is not statute, but acts as guidance for developing zoning regulations. He suggested we talk with Ann Kerrey from the Putney CC about their process with regard to efforts to prevent forest fragmentation, which could be very helpful.

Mike asked us to develop a word document for any parts of the narrative that seem to be missing. He asked us in particular to review the edited document (our comments on the previous Town Plan) and note any actions that had already been completed. We are to work on suggestions for policies and actions/recommendations. Focus less on goals. Think about this: what do we want to be doing as a WCC for the next 8 years?

We will meet for another Town Plan work meeting 10 am on Saturday May 16, location TBD, possibly the Institute.

b) Follow-up DEC watershed planning (sampling in Town Forest)- Jim has gotten permissions to meet at the Ginnever property Meet at the Institute at 1 pm on Friday May 15. Rachael will tell Kestrel to let Marie and Isabel know to meet at the Institute for carpooling to the Quarry Road/Ginnever property area.

c) Town Forest SB meeting - As stewards, we would be facilitators for actions that would be proposed for the Town Forest, hold forums re: town input etc. SB meeting is 6:30 pm on Tuesday April 28. We are on the agenda in New Business, which will be midway through the meeting. Jim will check in at the Town Hall tomorrow and let us know what time we should be there.

d) Ephemeral Plant walk – Rachael did PR for the Gazette, will do so for the Front Porch Forum.

e) Green-up Day –Promotion has been done in Gazette and FPF. Rachael will work the Town Hall 9-11 am on Green Up Day

f) grant development process (planning) - postpone

6. **New Business:**

a) AVCC/Regional CC meeting May 6, Dummerston Grange – Tatiana will attend, maybe Kestrel can come.

b) AVCC Town Forest webinar series, no dates available yet.- Do we want to be a panelist on the webinar? Not yet, but hopefully we can attend.

7. **Other Business:** none

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** May 28th, Westminster West Library 7 pm.

9. **Adjournment at 8:43**

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Rachael Shaw, secretary