

## WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 5/28/26 at 7:00 P.M

In person: Westminster West Library

To join by Zoom, contact

westminstervtconservation@gmail.com

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm. Present: Tatiana Schreiber (chair), Amy Moreland, Jim Calchera, Kestrel Craig, Rachael Shaw (secretary), Jane Fitzwilliam (guest), Annie Smith (guest)

2. Adjustments to Agenda: postpone Item 5d.

3. Acceptance of Minutes: 4/23/26 – Tatiana moved that we accept the minutes. Kestrel seconded. Minutes accepted by unanimous consent.

4. Communications and Public Comment:

a) Email and Newsletter communications –Tatiana reviewed the emails that have been received this past month. Document available in our Google drive. Regarding communication with Kate McKay (Windham County NRCD Avian Technician) -Kestrel will follow up with her about doing a potential field visit at the Ginnever property concerning NRDC programs to protect field-nesting birds. We will discuss this (and/or doing a public presentation about the NRDC programs) at our next meeting. Kestrel will offer Kate the option to come to our June meeting.

Re communication from VNRC, they are looking for help to disseminate educational materials about forest stewardship to landowners in our community: the [\*Stewardship Guide for Vermont Forest Landowners\*](#), and its companion [\*Stewardship Roadmap\*](#). They are currently offering a limited number for free. Tatiana will order 10 of the Guides and 20 of the roadmaps for the two libraries, our CC and to distribute to local landowners.

Amy reviewed upcoming events in the newsletters. Her report is available in our Google drive.

b) Rockingham CC minutes report -

Rachael reviewed some items from the last Rockingham CC meeting. She noted that during the week of June 17, Vermont Academy will host Bill McKibben and other climate speakers. They are still looking for a venue in Saxtons River. They also discussed their attendance at a Rockingham Planning Commission meeting and some potential changes they might suggest to development review plans.

c) Jane Fitzwilliam (guest) - Jane introduced the idea of the CC developing an anti-rodenticide campaign and handed out information. She had also sent links to more information which is available on our gmail account, in an email dated 5.28. We could develop and provide educational materials. We discussed the idea and were generally supportive but wanted to do additional research. We will further discussion of this idea to the agenda for the next meeting.

Tatiana outlined the protocol for joining the WCC as Jane is potentially interested. She will send Jane relevant materials.

5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –

a) Town Plan input process: confirm date/place for work session (i.e. a Special Meeting) to continue our process of providing input on the Town Plan - Monday June 15 6-7:30 WW Library.

b) Follow-up recent Town Forest visit - Kestrel will reach out again to ask about wetland inventory with Marie Caduto (regional watershed planner for the state DEC) and stilt grass inspection with Isabel Bowman (Windham County NRCD technician)

c) Ephemeral Plant walk – report – there were 7 participants including the landowner on the walk held Saturday May 9. It was a two hour walk on a rainy cool day. It was a successful walk on interesting terrain and many specimens were viewed.

d) AVCC Regional Meeting – report postponed. Tatiana will write up her notes and distribute them by email for discussion at the next meeting..

e) Town Forest AVCC grant planning

Next steps - Excellent news! We were awarded our request of an \$800 “tiny grant” to begin our “revitalization” of the Town Forest trail network from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Once received, a copy of the contract between the Conservation Commission and AVCC will be in our drive and Tatiana will send a copy to the Selectboard. Jim will check with Kelley in the Town Hall to see if the signed contract and the money has been received by the Town. Kestrel will create a sub-

budget section for our grant in the google drive. Jim will research what permitting is required by contacting state officials and civil engineers that he knows. We will need to do a site visit to scope out what we would like for parking, anticipating approximately 10 cars, possibly with Town Road Foreman Ben Masure, or with a local excavator. Rachael will ask Stephen Major if he still wants to be involved with building the kiosk. We would supply materials, could possibly get some donations of these. Jim will ask some small sawmill operators if they have any black locust, as opposed to pressure treated. They would be honored on the kiosk with some kind of medallion/signage acknowledging their donations. Jim and/or Kestrel will bring photos of kiosks to our next meeting to discuss potential designs. Kestrel will ask Marie Caduto about a book she mentioned on trail design.

6. New Business:

a) Review open meeting FAQ. This is in the drive under PUBLIC MEETING LAWS AND GUIDELINES. EVERYONE SHOULD REVIEW BEFORE NEXT MEETING. - Reminder not to discuss CC business with each other in emails because that constitutes an unwarned meeting. Email CAN be used for scheduling meetings and for distributing materials to be discussed at a warned meeting.

b) Act 181 discussion – postponed to next meeting.

7. Other Business: next meeting: discuss our WW Cemetery planting maintenance schedule

8. Date of Next Meeting: June 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Westminster Institute

9. Adjournment at 8:35 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by

Rachael Shaw, secretary