

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

July 5, 2022

Place: Wentworth Town Office
Time: 12:04
Present: Linda Brownson, Chair
Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary
Birgitte "Deda" Wilms, Member

At 9:30, prior to today's meeting, WCC members L Brownson, I Mercier, B Wilms and Arnold Scheller, Select Board Ex-Officio met with the Grafton County Forester Jim Frohn at the Town Forest property on Buffalo Road. Jim was very informative and emphasized how fortunate Wentworth is to have such a well-managed property and the many possibilities that exist within its boundaries. He pointed out how beneficial prior management has been and gave suggestions for future management that would accelerate the growth of mixed woods.

A controlled burn can improve Oak regeneration by removing leaf litter so acorns, a food source, can reach the soil to root. Although slashes and snags look messy "the messier the better" as they're equivalent to a wildlife hotel. A patch cut of two acres allows sun in for growth of mullein, ferns and berries.

There is a lot to learn about the property that can be used for educational purposes. Evidence of barb wire and big pasture pines suggests an agricultural history. Where did the glacial erratics come from? Is there evidence of indigenous people? What edible plants exist? Evidence of charred stumps indicate they may be a fire history that would be interesting to research.

Jim Frohn joined the meeting for a few minutes to recap what his thoughts were for the property

Chair Linda Brownson called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Agenda items:

1. Minutes of June 7, 2022 approved by B. Wilms, seconded by I. Mercier.

2. The email from Forester Jordan King was reviewed and discussed. It was felt that WCC would employ a forester as needed for the time being.
3. Balance in the WCC fund is \$1600. WCC will have a conversation with the Friends of the Wentworth Parks and Recreation to see if WCC can tag on to their 501©(3) for fundraising purposes. An invite for Jenn Meade to attend a WCC meeting will be issued.
4. Pemi Baker Land Trust has received WCC's application. Two of their members have been assigned to work with WCC. In September PBLT members will meet with WCC to explain the process and expectations. A PBLT conservation easement policy was handed out to members to be reviewed and questions for the meeting with PBLT. There is a one-time fee of \$5,000.
5. Nature observations over the past month has been a family of skunks with four little ones, a lynx crossing on Buffalo Road and turkeys.
6. Schedule of Quincy Bog Evening Programs and walks was handed out.

A walk of the Dorchester Road Town Forest will be scheduled with discussion about it's place in the WCC mission and best use for the town.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Minutes submitted 7/24/2022 by Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary.

Addendum:

On July 8th, WCC members L. Brownson, B. Wilms and I. Mercier, along with Alex DeLucia, Director of Trail Services with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), walked the Town Forest together. Alex was very enthusiastic about the possibilities for a proposed trail system and the many educational opportunities the property offered. AMC can contribute services at many levels, from mapping the land for trails, providing tools and volunteers, providing supervision for WCC volunteers or doing it all. These services come with various costs and there was discussion on funding available for recreational projects.

WCC will discuss the possibility of a working relationship with AMC that would best fit WCC goals.