

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

October 4, 2022

Place: Wentworth Town Office

Time: 10:03

Present: Linda Brownson, Chair
Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair
Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary
Birgitte "Deda" Wilms, Membe5

Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 10:03

1. Agenda Updated
2. Minutes of September 6, 2022 approved by D. Wilms, seconded by T. Pihlajavesi.
3. Pemi Baker Land Trust September 6, 2022 meeting. There are five PBLT members working on the subcommittee that will evaluate WCC's application. L Brownson was invited to the initial meeting and did an exploratory walk of the two parcels with the subcommittee. WCC members will be invited to the PBLT second meeting as they move forward with the application process. It was recommended that WCC should have a lawyer review the easement before it is finalized. D. Wilms will reach out to Attorney Mark Dunn in Concord regarding his availability to do this.
4. Wentworth Town Forest Dorchester parcel updates. The plan for sale was presented to the Select Board 9/20/2022 and approval was granted to sell. L. Brownson met with Allen Barnard Surveying at the site. He originally surveyed the parcel in 1978. A section of the widest part of the parcel is wetland, and the entire parcel is subject to additional possible development restrictions under the NH Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, as the South Branch of the Baker River is a designated fourth order stream. D. Wilms will verify with Grafton County that the

deed is registered. She also will confirm the process of obtaining town signatures for the Purchase/Sale agreement. Sale description should include “temporary structure and seasonal” and “as is”. Buyer would sign off on land disclosure.

5. Conservation Fund and Land Use Change Tax (LUCT). Reviewed Chapter 3 in NH Municipal Conservation Commission Handbook as it explains Conservation Fund and Finances. Separate funds are needed. One, that WCC has, is a Forest Maintenance Fund and any revenue from logging goes there. The second is a Conservation Fund. This is funded by money paid to the municipality when land that was enrolled in the Current Use assessment program has changed and is no longer eligible for current use assessment. Donations, gifts and grants can also go into this fund. A warrant article will be presented at the 2023 Town Meeting to establish a Conservation Fund and funding for it from the LUCT and other sources. Brownson will invite Jen Mead to the next meeting for a discussion of how we might work together with the Friends of Wentworth.
6. Wentworth Town Forest Turner Road parcel tour. It was agreed the parcel is excellent for children’s education programs and offers opportunities to work with schools.
7. Baker River Watershed Association and our participation update. WCC members will be invited to attend their annual meeting at Pease Library in Plymouth. In the Spring there will be water sampling training, including frequency of samples and timeline for reporting.
8. Motion to respond to Jordan King’s “Forester Management Contract”. After discussion, it was agreed that at the current time an “as needed” forester was sufficient, as we already have a Forest Management Plan in place written by King. At the time of need, a contract with job description, specifications, timeline and cost would be presented. D. Wilms made the motion to reject the proposed contract. T. Pihlajavesi

seconded it. All present agreed. L Brownson will notify J King of the WCC's decision.

9. Jordan King's "Hiking Trail System" proposal. Upon review by the WCC members several concerns were raised – cost, lack of volunteers, transition from not using skid roads to using skid roads. D. Wilms made the motion to reject the trail proposal. T. Pihlajavesi seconded it. All present agreed. L Brownson will notify J King of the WCC's decision.

10. AMC Revised "Asset Inventory and Recreational Trail Network Proposal". WCC members reviewed the proposal which gave a potential trail plan, highlights that would be attractive to hikers and naturalists and an opportunity to involve volunteers from the town to aid in the sense of ownership. The AMC offers staff leadership for volunteer events and trail maintenance techniques and will assist in grant writing for funding of trail development. D. Wilms made a motion to accept the proposal. T. Pihlajavesi seconded it. All present agreed. L. Brownson will notify Alex DeLucia at AMC.

11. FaceBook option and comments. It was agreed that at this time a WCC FaceBook page was not necessary. I. Mercier will post occasional items of interest on the Wentworth Bulletin page.

12. Scheduling a forest tour at the Scheller Farm. This is pending. L. Brownson will reach out to arrange a date after mid- October.

13. Observations in Nature. Sighting of large numbers of Canada geese have been seen in fields and on local ponds. Two cubs were observed in an apple tree throwing apples down to momma bear.

14. Other business. None

15. Comments or questions from visitors. None

16.Meeting adjourned at 11:50.
Minutes submitted 10/20/2022 by Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary.