

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

May 3, 2023

Place: Wentworth Congregational Church Community Room

Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Linda Brownson, Chair

Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair

Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary

Arnold Scheller, Select Board Ex-Officio

Visitors: Richard and Ricky Borger, Jordan King and Amy Collette

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 6:04.
- Minutes of 4/4/2023 approved by L. Brownson, seconded by T. Pihajavesi
- Town Forest Plan. There was discussion on the way WCC warrant articles were handled at March Town Meeting and the interpretation and intent of the Plumber Will. It was questionable as to whether tabling the items meant indefinitely or for that meeting and A. Scheller will seek clarification from the State. J. King recommended parking at the pullover with overflow at the corner site, which between the two would accommodate a school bus and/or eight cars. The area discussed for a parking lot is wet due to runoff from the height of the land and limited sunlight to dry it out. The area would require drainage and stone to make it adequate for a parking area adding to the expense of the project. Opening this area makes it susceptible to trash and discarded household items, tires, etc. Jordan King submitted a proposal "For no fee I, Jordan King, will help layout and map the Town Forest hiking trails, as well as paint them, if at Town Meeting it is approved. The Conservation Committee will provide volunteers to clear paths. Do not open up the log landing. I will adjust the AMC system to correct it."

Jordan feels that a “symbolic vote” at Town Meeting is needed so town residents are aware of what is happening within the Town Forest.

At this time no action was taken. This proposal will be taken into consideration.

- Turner Road parcel deed. J. King believes that Francis Muzzy has a copy of the deed. I. Mercier will contact him.
- Baker River Watershed Assoc. update. L. Brownson, T. Pihlajavesi and I. Mercier will be meeting upriver of the Wentworth covered bridge May 16, 2023 at 12:00 PM with Lisa Doner for a water testing training and a comprehensive and E. coli test sample. Location of a third testing site will be decided. An action item is to prepare a protocol sheet for posting any elevated counts at the swim sites.
- Sale of Dorchester Parcel. It was clarified that the Selectboard is the only one who has the right to sell town property. A. Scheller will follow up with the town administrator on bid process and letters to abutters. Assessed value over the years has been as high as \$40K to the present \$10K.
- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Handouts: Planning Your NRI and Table of Contents of the Bath, NH NRI. A core work group of 4-6 people with others having knowledge on specific resources is necessary. Suggestions of people in the community are appreciated. Included should be cemeteries and Plumbers Ledge/Pothole area (at which the parking area is overgrown and fences in disrepair).

- One Water Stewardship Materials. This is a curriculum for Grades 1-6 from the National Association of Conservation Districts to celebrate water and soil stewardship. L. Brownson contacted Wentworth and Warren Elementary Schools who were excited and appreciative to have the free curriculum offered.
- NHEC Herbicide Plans. Handouts: EPA accused of failing to regulate use of toxic herbicides despite court order. Scheduled for spraying are Nichols Hill, Atwell Hill and Cape Moonshine Roads. Dicamba, a very toxic chemical that can travel by air, is used. A. Scheller says if the Operations Officer is notified of animals in the area they will adjust the chemicals used.
- Social Media Report. The June meeting will be posted with the agenda prior to June 7, 2023 meeting.
- Observations in Nature. Ruffed Grouse, a cow moose, bear and cubs, ermine, deer and Canada Geese pairs that seem to be pond hopping from Nichols Hill and Atwell Hill.
- Other business. J. King discussed the status of the Town Gravel Pit on Rt 25. Deed research is done. There have been interested parties. It sounds like a very lucrative sale for the town while off setting taxes. It would need a town meeting vote to sell. Unless water quality was affected, it should be in the hands of the Selectboard and not the Conservation Commission.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Minutes submitted by I. Mercier, Secretary 5/5/2023