

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

June 7, 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, Ricky, Neil, Angie, Ryan and Nathan Borger, Eric and Katie Muzzy, Francis Muzzy, Diane Cheney, Sharon Sanborn, Amy Collette, John Comeau, and Favor Jenkins.

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 6:04.
- Minutes of 5/3/2023 approved by I. Mercier, seconded by T. Pihlajavesi.
- Dorchester Parcel sale. One of the abutting neighbors has shown an interest. The Select Board will initiate a closed bid process with a time line posted. When that time line is reached the Select Board, at the next meeting, will open the bids and make a decision on the bid to accept. Funds generated by this sale will be placed in the General Fund.
- Baker River Watershed Association. First official sampling was done 5/30/2023 and the next is scheduled for 7/5/2023 which will follow a busy weekend for the river. The three locations selected for testing are: the north side of the Rt 25 Warren/Wentworth Bridge, Paige's swim hole below the falls and north side of the Silver Bridge on Saunders Hill Road. Training was done with Professor Lisa Donner of PSU and an intern Ryan Leo from NH Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Collection of samples are submitted to DES for analysis. Select Board is notified of results ONLY if there is evidence of elevated E. coli. They will notify the Town Health Officer who will post the designated area.

- Town Forest Access and Volunteer efforts. Lots of discussion regarding transparency, status of a town forester, involvement of AMC with trail development, trail development with minimal impact, liability with utilizing volunteers, training volunteers, on site information board “kiosk”, significance of the Master Plan in regards to recommendations to the Conservation Committee, concern with usage of trails and parking area and how to monitor that usage.
Action items prior to next meeting:
 - Finalizing status of Town Forester
 - Revised trail system. Neil Borger volunteered to work with the Commission on a revision.
- NHEC Herbicide Plans. L. Brownson spoke with the vegetation planner. Atwell Hill and Cape Moonshine Road will be sprayed in the near future. Back bladders will be used for targeted spray within 6” of stump decreasing the air bound chemicals and no fruit trees will be sprayed.
- Social Media Reports. Pictures with explanation of water sampling training and dates for testing will be posted.
- Observations in Nature. Bobcat roaming through a yard. The May freeze damage is apparent with shriveling and browning leaf damage on Oak and Beech trees in lower elevation. Hopefully it is only a temporary setback.
- Other business: S. Sanborn shared that the septic system on Webster Library property has passed inspection. R. Borger Sr extended thanks to all those that attended.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.
Minutes submitted by I. Mercier, Secretary 6/18/2023

DRAFT