

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
November 1, 2022

Place: Wentworth Town Office
Time: 10:04
Present: Linda Brownson, Chair
Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair
Ilse “Izzy” Mercier, Secretary
Birgitte “Deda” Wilms, Member
Arnold Scheller, Select Board Ex-Officio
Guests: Jen Meade, Friends of Wentworth Parks and Rec
Alex DeLucia, AMC Trail Developer

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

*Minutes of 10/4/2022 approved by T. Pihlajavesi, seconded by B. Wilms.

*Friends of Wentworth Parks and Rec member, Jen Meade, shared with the group the history of the organization. In the 1990’s it was an active volunteer group responsible for putting the tennis/basketball court in place, weekly volleyball, community hikes and a Market Day Duck Race. The group became inactive and after a span of time reins were handed over to the current group who has a five member board. The Common Covered Bridge Project was the main focus and a 501(C)(3) was acquired so donations could be accepted. At times this 501(C)(3) has hosted other organizations to assist with fundraising and donations. Jen stressed the importance of being passionate about the project, verbalizing plans, forming partnerships, recruiting volunteers and that once progress is seen the passion becomes contagious.

*AMC trail designer, Alex DeLucia, shared with the group some AMC history and local projects (Rumney Rocks) that he is involved with. He had slides showing the recommendation of a primary loop around the property, approximately 1.3 miles long which would utilize an existing open corridor from skid roads that need improvement to create a more enjoyable and sustainable surface. A. Scheller discussed that hügelkultur, a horticultural technique that mounds decaying wood debris improving soil fertility and water retention, may be suitable for skid road improvement. This primary loop would be designed for year-round recreation and is currently flagged with yellow flagging. There are two wet areas that would

need structural boardwalks. Additional spur trails would be of a more primitive footpath for three season users. When the design is completed the WCC will receive clean final maps and payment will be expected at that time.

*Proposed town warrants for 2023 Town Meeting were drafted, reviewed and accepted by WCC.

*Pemi-Baker Land Trust conservation easement has an initial draft. Members of WCC will be attending the PBLT meeting on 11/11/22 for an application review.

*Dorchester Town Forest parcel had more discussion regarding site assessment as to buildability. Pricing would depend on the outcome of the assessment.

*Social media will be done by T. Pihlajavesi and I Mercier. Pictures of the Town Forest properties, introduction of WCC members and other entries of interest pertaining to the Town Forest will be put on the Wentworth Bulletin page.

*Observations in Nature. The area is rich with the opportunity to see deer, geese, bears, turkeys, herons and osprey.

*WCC welcomed the discussion with Jen Meade and Alex DeLucia.

*Meeting adjourned 12:27.