

Wentworth Conservation Committee (WCC)
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
February 7, 2023

Place: Wentworth Town Office
Time: 10:00 AM
Present: Linda Brownson, Chair
Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair
Ilse “Izzy” Mercier, Secretary
Birgitte “Deda” Wilms, Member
John Meade, Wentworth Planning Board, Guest

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 10:00.
- Minutes of 1/3/2023 approved by D. Wilms, seconded by T. Pihlajavesi.
- Guest John Meade ,Chair of the Wentworth Planning Board, gave a short introduction of the duties of the Planning Board. He shared that the Master Plan final draft will be presented at the Town Office Monday 2/27/23 at 6:30 pm for community comments. The previous Master Plan was 1985 and was not updated every 5 years as recommended. He explained the 2 ½ year process from obtaining funds, composing the questions for the survey, public hearings, tallying the survey results and compiling the directives for each of the departments. The Planning Board will be budgeting \$2000/year so that yearly a chapter in the Master Plan will be reviewed and any changes deemed necessary addressed
- A video presentation by Stephen Buckley, NH Municipal Association Legal Services Counsel in regards to the NH Right-to-Know Law 91-A was watched. It discussed the definition of public meetings, public records, public body, what constitutes a meeting and a non-meeting and expectations for minutes. The WCC discussed what is done correctly, as well as, areas that WCC can improve.

- Pemi-Baker Land Trust update
The Turner/Buffalo Road parcel deed needs the Grafton County Registry of Deeds Book and Page Number for the easement. Ongoing research is needed.
The Easement Monitoring Fund one-time fee statement of \$7250 has been received.
The next step is to have easement approval from the Town attorney.
- Baker River Watershed Association will hold its annual meeting March 3, 2023 at 4:30 pm at the Plymouth Pease Public Library. WCC members are encouraged to attend and meet the members that will do a spring training for WCC members on testing for water safety in the Wentworth area of the Baker River.
- An additional \$7250 will be added to the Conservation Appropriation warrant article for the one-time Pemi-Baker Land Trust Easement Monitoring Fee. There will be handouts at Town Meeting to explain conservation easement and the benefits of having one. Members were encouraged to engage with community members so they can be informed on the importance of the WCC warrant articles to be voted on at Town Meeting. Due to several years of WCC being inactive, there is need for some “housekeeping” articles to be addressed.
- T. Pihlajavesi will be introducing member Deda Wilms on social media before the March meeting. These notices on Face Book Wentworth NH Bulletin Board have been received well.
- New observations in nature were fun to hear about – antics of flying squirrels, a moose and a red cardinal
- Other business discussion was around identifying possible new members.
- No visitors, no comments
- Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

Minutes submitted by I. Mercier, Secretary 2/11/2023