

**Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)**

**Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting**

**April 4, 2023**

**Place:** Wentworth Town Office  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Present:** Linda Brownson, Chair  
Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair  
Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary  
Visitors: Richard and Ricky Borger

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 10:00.
- Minutes of 3/7/2023 approved by T. Pihlajavesi, seconded by I. Mercier.
- Town Meeting 3/18/23 Review.  
Article 15 Conservation Fund – Tabled  
Article 16 Town Forest Conservation Easement – Tabled  
Article 17 Land Use Change Tax – Tabled  
Article 18 Conservation Appropriation – Passed  
Article 19 Forest Maintenance Appropriation – Failed  
Article 20 Sale of Town Forest Parcel – Amendment Passed – money to go to General Fund  
Richard and Ricky Borger shared concerns and suggestions regarding the Town Forest development. As long-time residents and past members of Planning Board, Selectman and Conservation Commission they provided historical facts regarding the history of the Town Forest.  
In hopes of increasing attendance a change in meeting time and venue will be considered.
- Turner Road Parcel Deed. Research is ongoing. Richard Borger referred to it as the Sargent Lot. In an 8/12/98 correspondence from Attys Gardner & Fulton one of four of the items listed as inventory of the 12/26/45 estate is the Sargent Lot containing 16 acres. This may be a clue to assist with the deed research.

- Baker River Watershed Association. L. Brownson and I. Mercier attended the 3/25/23 annual meeting. During the summer of 2023 trained volunteers will take 4 samples over the summer from 3 different Wentworth locations (up river of Paiges swim hole, Hamilton Field beach and Saunders Hill Silver Bridge swim hole) to be transported to Plymouth University for ecoli testing. Lisa Doner of BRWA is planning a meeting with the Conservation Commissions from Wentworth, Rumney and Plymouth where concerns regarding the river can be discussed. Town of Wentworth has been lax in their financial support of the testing program and that will be rectified. Testing for summer swim safety will cost \$300 for the season.
- Dredge and Fill in Wetlands Permits. Two permits have been received by the Town and forwarded to the WCC. Both were pertaining to the bridge repair the Town has scheduled on the Frescoln Road Bridge and North Dorchester Road Bridge. No action was needed. A handout was received on laws pertaining to this issue and responsibilities of Conservation Commissions.
- Sale of Dorchester parcel. At Town Meeting the article related to this sale was amended so any monies received would be placed in the General Fund. A letter will be drafted to abutters giving them the right of first refusal.
- Social Media. The Wentworth Bulletin will be used to share information on the Baker River Water Testing and provide encouragement to keep Wentworth swim holes clean and safe for the summer season for all to enjoy. Another Facebook page we can submit to is "Wentworth, NH News and Events," administered by Donna King.
- One Water Stewardship Materials for WES. This is a curriculum from the National Association of Conservation District for grades 1-6 to celebrate soil and water stewardship during Soil and Water Stewardship week, April 30 – May 7, 2023. Printing of the materials is the only cost. There is a poster contest with a cash prize. The theme this year is "One Water". 2024 theme is forestry "Let the Forest Be with You." L. Brownson will contact the WES principal regarding interest in the free curriculum.

- Other Business. NH Natural Resources Inventories (NRI) guide was handed out to assist with compiling the information needed. The recently approved Master Plan has recommendations for the WCC and one is “Identify, and keep current inventories of natural and scenic resources, wetlands, floodplains, groundwater, and essential habitat areas” p.119. The NRI for Wentworth will be a 2023 action item.
- Observations of nature: migrating birds are returning. A starling family has arrived for it’s third year of residency in the same spot. Robins seem to be arriving in pairs instead of flocks as previously observed.
- Comments or questions from visitors.
- Meeting adjourned 12:45.

Minutes submitted by I. Mercier, Secretary 4/12/2023.