

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

July 12, 2023

Place: Wentworth Town Office

Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Linda Brownson, Chair

Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary

Arnold Scheller, Select Board Ex-Officio

Visitors: Brian DuBois, Leslie Backstrom, Sharon Sanborn, Diane Cheney, Neil, Angela, Ryan, Nathan, Richard and Ricky Borger, Palmer Koelb, Francis Muzzey, Glen Wyman, Amy Collette, Omer Ahern Jr., Craig Pasco, Sonia Scheller, and Rick Ducheneau.

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 6:04. Attendance sheet was passed.
- Minutes of 6/7/2023 approved by I. Mercier, seconded by A. Scheller.
- Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) zoom presentation with Barbara Richter, Executive Director of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. She reviewed the programs they assist local commissions with making note that a conservation commission is an advisory board with the town's select board and planning board being regulatory.
An NRI should consist of maps, data behind the maps and a written report made available to the public and updated every 5-10 years. (Presently Wentworth does not have a current one.) It helps to identify unique areas, areas to protect and restore and can be used with the Master Plan for decision making to protect and prioritize areas for development.
The process would be to establish a sub-committee work group that would set goals, determine study areas, review existing NRI's, review existing town plans that are in place (ex: hazard mitigation), create a budget, timelines and recommendations.
- Baker River Water Sampling. I. Mercier reported that a second sampling was done 7/8/23. Data was collected but due to the extensive rain and heavy flow of the river the E. coli sampling will be done July 13, 2023 if the rain has held off for a 24-hour period.

- Collaboration with the Center for the Environment with Dr. Amy Villamagna of Plymouth State University. Graduate students will assist WCC with a start up on the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Three areas will be chosen to work initially with the students on the NRI with WCC and volunteers completing the NRI. Grad students will also provide assistance with a website so the document will be available to all.
- Town Forest Recreational Trail Network Plan. The draft of the plan was completed the evening before this meeting so it had not been available for review by town residents. Those present were asked to submit their email addresses if interested in receiving the draft. For those not present, the draft is in the process of being posted to the Town website.
- Other Business.
Petition submitted for vote:
“7/12/23 I would like to request that the Conservation Commission take a vote on the reinstatement of Jordan King as the Wentworth Town Forester with the overwhelming support that was expressed at the June meeting by the citizens that were present. Even though the timber harvesting is completed for the present time it has been standard practice in the past that we had a Town Forester that over-saw whatever may arise within the forest such as blow downs, etc. Now more then ever, any other activities that go on should be discussed with our forester to make sure that any plans are not restricting future timber harvest. I think that the forester and the Conservation Commission can work together to come up with a low impact, simple loop trail that the townspeople could access which Jordan has proposed to do for free, using existing skid roads. This was proposed at the May meeting but was never voted on by the board to accept or reject. I would also request a vote on that proposal which included that we wait until Town Meeting to let the Townspeople vote on this proposal. If the Conservation Commission chooses not to work with Jordan King as Town Forester, we will be petitioning the Selectman for such action.
Thank you,
Richard Borger, Jr.”

The WCC declined to vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes submitted by I. Mercier, Secretary 7/18/2023