

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
September 6, 2023

Place: Wentworth Congregational Church

Time: 6:00 PM

Present: Linda Brownson, Chair
Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair
Ilse "Izzy" Mercier, Secretary

Visitors: Jordan King, Diane Cheney, Sharon Sanborn, Rick Ducheneau, Francis Muzzey, Mae and Richard Borger Sr, Ricky Borger Jr, Brian DuBois, John Comeau, Amy Collette, Angela, Neil and Ryan Borger, Lisa Anthony and David Burghardt, Erik Muzzey, Dawn Gove, Jeffry Ames and Craig Pasco

- Chair L. Brownson called the meeting to order at 6:00. Attendance sheet was passed.
- Minutes of 8/2/2023 approved by T. Pihlajavesi, seconded by I. Mercier.
- The only agenda item was to have more conversation around the subject of the Wentworth Town Forest Loop Trail. The goal is to have a prepared warrant article for the 2024 Town Meeting regarding the Loop Trail and a second one that would be for the ordinances. These will be submitted to the Select Board for review and approval then sent to the Town attorney for review and approval.

Brian DuBois offered the following and it initiated positive feedback and will be submitted to the Select Board at the 9/19/2023 meeting.

PROPOSED 2024 WARRANT ARTICLE – Re: Foot Path on Plummer Town Forest
To see if the Town will vote to approve a foot path of approximately 1.5 miles in length on the Plummer Town Forest. This foot path will be laid out by the Town Forester at no cost to the Town. This foot path will be the only foot path on the Plummer Town Forest.

Summary of discussions with no action taken: History of the willed property was revisited, concern that the Conservation Commission has too much control and Town Forest should be managed by Select Board, Town Forest and the Plummer Trust, attention was brought to RSA36-A:4 that explains the Conservation Commission's Role in Managing Town Land, ordinances are area specific, should be kept simple on the signage with a reference to visit the Town website for complete list, concerns with hunting vs hiking during 9/2-12/15 hunting season, no further changes to the Town Forest unless brought to Town Meeting, other options for hiking are Class VI roads in town, signage should be minimal, volunteers needed to clear the path Forester Jordan King lays out, an explanation on how profits from timber cuttings are distributed – Plummer property goes to the Trust, remaining property would go to the General Fund, a capitol reserve fund could be initiated for possible future purchase of land that would have to be approved with a warrant article at Town Meeting.

Rick Ducheneau had a list of possible ordinances. Review of literature from other sites will be done for other suggestions. A warrant article will be submitted to Select Board for review and approval when a final list is composed.

Summary of list: NO horses, fires, camping, alcohol, wheeled vehicles, defacing property, offensive noise and no parking on site (parking will be in the pullover on Buffalo Road across from the Town Forest entrance with overflow parking in state area at end of dam). Foot traffic only, dogs on leash with exception of hunting dogs, and carry in/carry out.

- The Conservation Commission's next work project is the Natural Resource Inventory in collaboration with PSU students and advisor. More info to come on the process.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12.

Minutes submitted by I. Mercier 9/27/2023