

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting

February 9, 2023 (unapproved minutes)

Present : Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Jon Lounsbury, Perry Sawyer, Jean Rudolph, Doug Oatley

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Minutes of 12/28/22 and 1/12/23 approved as submitted.

The Jan 2 Selectboard/land-use board meeting was reviewed. The boards gave reports/reviews of various issues being addressed. It was a very informative session and will hopefully be continued.

There was a discussion of the December 18 letter to Steve Horton, Construction Consultant to the town concerning the new fire station. We had prepared and he had agreed to formally respond to our letter outlining 14 specific environmental issues. We have not yet received a written response but appreciate his very busy schedule and the fact that he has already provided us with valuable information.

Still need to check to see if Dig Safe is aware of the asbestos buried adjacent to the access road to Maplewood Nursing Home off River road.

The conservation easement proposed for the 48 acre Goodrums Crossing Realty Trust is still in the works. Marshall will check with the Monadnock Conservancy about the status.

We discussed providing public information meetings and mailings concerning land conservation, like our effort of a few years ago. This would also include working with Cheshire County to encourage permanent conservation its 600 acres of forest and farmland.

According to RSA 477:45-47, Conservation Commissions can apparently use their unexpended funds from their town appropriation to be put in their conservation fund used to assist in the funding of permanent land conservation projects. Not sure we will do it this year. Will check the process.

We agreed it's important to inventory the natural resources, trails etc in town in preparation for our land conservation efforts and certainly for the updating of the town master plan last done in 2016. The Commission has lots of resource information in our files to assist in the effort. This serves as a reminder that we need to review our files and categorize the information. We have abundant resource information spanning decades of data. We will schedule review/sorting sessions at future meetings.

Jon Lounsbury is spearheading another roadside cleanup effort with the school at the end of April (Arbor Day). We have requested funding to specifically be used as incentives and materials to encourage participation. Last year was an outstanding effort and will certainly be another success.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 9 @ 7 pm.

Submitted by Marshall Patmos