

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting
April 13, 2023 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, Jean Rudolph, Jon Lounsbury, Doug Oatley
Minutes of the March 9 meeting were approved.

Those present reviewed the letter from the Selectboard responding to a December letter the Commission had sent to Steve Horton requesting further clarification of environmental issues in construction of the new fire station. While no new information was shared we were informed that our request of Mr. Horton was inappropriate without going through them.

The Commission has been contacted about an issue concerning the potential spreading of biosolid composting material on farmland in the area. There are concerns of the presence of carcinogenic Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFA'S), "forever chemicals" in the material with long term negative environmental impacts on the land and on the products grown and consumed from the land. There are a number of levels of material mixes depending on what has been mixed to create the compost. The material can and should be tested before application.

The State of NH, the Conn River Conservancy and other communities are aware of the material and the need for standards. The Commission will review available material to see if there are necessary controls for the material to be used in Westmoreland.

We reviewed a Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification issued by the State for a timber sale on property off route 9 at the Westmoreland/Keene town line.

Expansion of the corn field at the County farm, clearing of brush and trees has been proposed, we saw no problem with the planned activity.

We reviewed a positive air quality compliance evaluation of Polyonics Inc by NHDES- -Air Resources Division under the NH Code Admin Rules, ENV-A 100.

We discussed perhaps contacting landowners and having public sessions concerning permanent land protection through conservation easements. According to the Monadnock Conservancy, the proposed Goodrums Crossing Realty Trust conservation easement is still in the works.

We again reviewed the need for an inventory of natural areas in town, trails, special woodlands, wetlands, open space, etc. There is a lot of material/maps etc. available that can be used in the effort. Revision of the towns master plan will certainly create awareness of the natural resources.

As part of our sponsorship of the April 22 roadside cleanup with the leadership of member Jon Lounsbury working with volunteers, the school and PTA , we voted to purchase two \$25 gift certificates as incentives for participants.

We spent a few minutes looking at the abundant material and maps that the Commission is planning to review, organize and refile for more efficient reference and use.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm- - next meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 11 at 7pm.
Submitted by Marshall Patmos