

Westmoreland Conservation Commission

August 6, 2020 meeting

Meeting called to order at 8:40 am

Present: Marshall Patmos, Jeanette Hubert, Perry Sawyer

Minutes of the July 2, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

A moment of pause was given to recognize the recent passing of member Jim Ranson-he will be missed.

The commission reviewed the application of the NH Dept of Transportation to repair/replace the culvert/bridge over White Brook between Mt Gilboa and London Road in East Westmoreland. This intent is to abate any flooding that may occur where the brook goes under US route 12 as has occurred in the past. The application was quite a substantial document with history, maps, hearing minutes photos, diagrams, architectural drawings, landowner records and a number of other items. Upon review and with no real concerns about the proposed project, the Commission signed off on the application as required. A copy of the document is available at the town office. The State has no obligation to notify the landowners abutting the project but we felt that we should inform the landowners involved.

Perry, our member of the Wantastiquet subcommittee of the Connecticut River Conservancy reported that he has been involved with the water quality testing that has been done near the hydro dams on the river in our area.

We have been asked by Mike Kowalczyk of the Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative if any of us would like to serve on a committee to discuss/plan trail restorative plans of the Cheshire rail trail from Keene/Surry town line to Bellows Falls including the bridge over the river. There are already some members from Walpole and they are looking for Westmoreland folks. While none in attendance had an interest at the time it was suggested people that snowmobile or bike on the trail might be interested. Dan Shelley was suggested as a possible member, Marshall will contact him. Members were asked to perhaps think of some potential members.

The letter to FEMA concerning relicensing of the HYDRO dams has been sent and acknowledged as received.

The Commission may want to consider additional members or alternates to serve. We are authorized to have 7 full members and any number of alternates.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am with next meeting scheduled for Thursday September 3 at 8:30 am at the town hall.

Prepared by Marshall Patmos