

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

12-14-2023

Meeting called to order at by Chairman Perry Sawyer at 6:30 PM

In attendance:

Perry Sawyer, Jon Lounsbury, Jean Rudolph, Anson Burt, Stuart Adams, April Ferguson and James Kritzer, guest

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Perry

Perry introduced Kate Buckman from the Connecticut River Conservancy.

Kate gave a very informative synopsis of the current information regarding the re-licensing process of the five hydroelectric dams in the Connecticut River, two in Northern Massachusetts and three in Southern Vt and NH.

Westmoreland has an obvious interest due to our proximity to the Connecticut River.

The regular Conservation business meeting resumed (following Kate's departure) with a motion by Jean and seconded by Jon to approve the minutes from the November meeting without corrections.

Perry introduced new Conservation members: Stuart Adams and Anson Burt and stated that Alicia Powell has agreed to become an alternate.

Stuart was originally asked to be an alternate member but, due to the resignation of a regular member, Perry installed Stuart as a member instead of an alternate.

Perry reported that there has been no forthcoming information from NH Farm Bureau regarding NH Right to Farm designation.

Three hiking/recreation trails in Westmoreland were identified – the Warwick trail, the Rail Trail and the County trail perpendicular to the Connecticut River. Anson Burt noted that all three of the trails are owned by entities other than the Town of Westmoreland and caution should be taken in publicizing them as Town hiking trails.

Everyone agreed with his observation and no further action on our part is will be taken..

April had contacted the chair of the Westmoreland Recreation Committee to request a joint meeting regarding the Town hiking trails and will inform her of our decision.

The co-chairman position was tabled and will be re-visited at a later date.

Perry gave a report on the CUB (Current Use Board) meeting on 11-13-2023 and informed us that the proposed assessment matrix system is being studied further and will not be implemented this year.

Jon asked about current use laws in relation to recreational designation status and land posting

practices. Discussion followed.

New business:

Perry informed us about receiving the resignation of Douglas Oatley, a regular member of the Conservation Commission, effective immediately. Doug will be missed for his quick grasp of issues presented as well as his positive comments and suggestions.

Perry will inform the Select Board of this change.

Jean asked if the Commission wanted to form a statement to submit to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) regarding re-licensing of the hydroelectric dams. It was decided to gather more information as the process evolves before issuing a statement.

The motion to adjourn was made by Perry and seconded by Jean. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
April Ferguson, Secretary