

Conservation Commission Meeting  
December 5, 2019 (unapproved)

Present: Marshall Patmos (Chair), April Ferguson, Mary Bradley, Jeannette Hubert, Dick Schmidt, Frank Hunter (guest)

The meeting commenced at 8:30 AM.

Marshall said that he submitted the budget request for \$650 for the upcoming year.

A general discussion addressed meaningful activities that the WCC may pursue. In addition to continuing our Conservation easement outreach/information effort, it was suggested we could perhaps provide information/field tours for the public on developing and improving wildlife habitat. Restoring the riverside trail at the County Farm is of interest and value to the community and the general public. Full restoration would be a major project, involving bridge-building and likely earth-moving activity. There is apparent interest in restoration and County Coordinator Chris Coates had said that he would be supportive after the Maplewood project is complete. Possible funding mechanisms for projects were also discussed, such as public donations for the trail (perhaps using the town/county website) or an endowment fund, but none seemed promising at this time. Marshall passed out handouts pertaining to the County land resources and activities. Marshall will contact County Commissioner Jack Wozmak for any input he may have.

Marshall noted that he will submit the WCC annual report to the town next month. The creation of a very large conservation easement at the Chickering farm is especially noteworthy.

Frank Hunter, lead of the Agriculture Advisory Committee (and contributor to other agriculture organizations), attended to generally discuss matters of interest to both agriculture and the WCC. Discussions addressed several topics including the desire for ag-friendly ordinances, farm stands (and related parking), and the desirability of an agricultural easement at the County Farm. It was suggested that the Commission review town ordinances to see if any need to be refined to reflect the importance of agricultural activities in town. We could then suggest modifications that will be more ag-friendly without affecting the original intent of the ordinance.

The next WCC meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at Town Hall.

Following a motion by April, a second by Mary, and full support, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Submitted by Richard Schmidt