

Westmoreland Conservation Commission meeting  
June 2,2022, (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Jeanette Hubert, Doug Oatley.  
Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

We reviewed some of the items brought up during our May 26 meeting with selectman John Snowden to prepare a letter to the selectmen concerning issues with potential contaminants at the current fire station and how to prevent future hazardous contamination at the proposed fire station.

We continued preparation of the letter including 11 points that were pointed out by a landowner in town. At our last meeting John informed us that a letter must be read at their meeting to become an official part of the meeting. We will ask to read the letter at the June 2 Selectboard meeting so it will be part of the official record.

Following is a copy of the letter to Selectmen that we hope to read at their June 2 meeting.

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June 2, 2022

To: Westmoreland Selectboard

From: Westmoreland Conservation Commission

The Westmoreland Conservation Commission is charged, according to NH RSA 36-A, to identify, protect and conserve the land and water resources of their community. In addition, according to NH RSA-482A and NH RSA 483-B, the Commission reviews local wetland applications and, in accordance with the NH Wetlands Bureau, is involved in the NH Shorelands Protection Act. In addition to responding to wetland issues as requested and reviewing formal applications, the Commission works with town, county, state and federal officials and a number of NH and regional groups and agencies on a variety of issues.

The Conservation Commission continues to have issues with the disposal of hazardous contaminated water from the washing of clothing, equipment and vehicles following a fire and have been formally approached by individuals with very serious concerns about same in addition to concerns of the alteration of water runoff.

A congenial meeting was held on April 26, 2022, with the town project consultant, Steve Horton, members of the Commission and the concerned parties. Many unanswered questions were brought up which Mr. Horton will be researching.

Since that meeting there have been a number of critical issues such as the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations that state, "It shall also be determined if any hazardous chemicals, gases, explosives, flammable materials or similarly dangerous substances have been used in any pipes, tanks, or other equipment on the property. When the presence of any such substances is apparent or suspected, testing and purging shall be performed, and the hazard eliminated before demolition is started." Some of the additional issues include excavation at the site without core samples

and water analysis reports, potential contaminant discharge, future containment of hazardous materials and the legal closure of the existing spring fed well.

We have since been in contact with Mr. Horton, who updated us on steps being taken to meet the requirements for demolition. We look forward to seeing the resulting survey when it becomes available.

As a Commission we are in agreement that we are not expert enough to handle many of the concerns regarding these issues.

There is increasing interest in having a Federal Environmental Impact Study (EIS) performed. This study may be lengthy and expensive; however, we recognize the responsibility we all share to protect the land, water resources and the neighboring community. This also provides for testing of soil core samplings and water analysis. It appears the project meets the requirements outlined by the Department of Energy as well as objectives of the EIS as noted in "aboutcivil.com" which obligates us to do so. The intent is to protect our residents from future potential health issues and the town from resulting litigation. The EIS will not only supply answers to many unanswered questions and unknown concerns but will add a level of protection for future lawsuits. If the project does not meet the criteria for an EIS, once one is applied for, that too would prove compliance intent should legal issues arise.

At this time, our responsibilities as outlined, may require an Environmental Impact Study.

The following items have also been discussed at our meetings and require resolution:

- \*Increased water runoff from structure runoff and parking lot
- \*Closure of current well/spring - - it is a legally deeded entity
- \*Contaminates from washed clothing flowing into leach field which is contained/adjacent to wetlands
- \*With design change of septic system, is pre-designed leach field adequate in size
- \*Runoff distribution onto downslope neighboring properties must be addressed
- \*EIS may be warranted by meeting at least two requirements ie. release of contaminants, proximity of wetlands and wetlands excavation.
- \*Potential for contaminated runoff into stream creating exposure for down slope neighbors.
- \*Information regarding contaminated water collection tanks ie. location, cost of frequent collection.
- \*Total of three (3) streams identified on property
- \*Must have new building location staked out according to SVE mapping (which is drawn to scale according to Steve Horton) to further study potential environmental impacts.

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Once reviewed and approved, those present voted to present the letter to the Selectmen.

An issue was brought up wondering what the Commission's responsibility, liability was if we didn't do our due diligence concerning the environmental issues concerning the new fire station.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 14 at 7 pm at town hall.

Respectfully submitted, Marshall Patmos