

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
June 22, 2020 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Jean Rudolph, Jeanette Hubert, Perry Sawyer,
Jim Ranson

The meeting was called to order a 8:30 am

The minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were approved with suggested changes.

The Commission is concerned about a letter of prohibition to Windyhurst Farm concerning parking cars on conservation easement property adjacent to Stuart and John's Sugarhouse Restaurant during "Cruise Night" and occasional landing of planes in the field across from the restaurant. The Commission reviewed the 1988 conservation easement agreement between Windyhurst Farm and the NH Land Conservation Investment Program. After much discussion, those present felt that the parking of cars less than 50 hours per year on a mowed open managed field adjacent to the restaurant and occasional plane landing on hay land across from the restaurant is not a violation of the easement. A letter stating our position was drafted to the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (the office monitoring the easement) with copies to a number of others including legislative representatives, NH legal entities and those concerned with agricultural issues within the state. A major issue of concern of the Commission is the negative public reaction to permanent land conservation since this issue became public.

The Commission discussed the upcoming relicensing of Great River Hydro to operate dams along the Connecticut River in Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon. The 40-year relicensing application is expected to be submitted in July. The Connecticut River Conservancy has asked towns along the river to submit comments and concerns to the Federal Energy Commission during the process. Jeanette and perhaps others will prepare a draft for us to preview at our next meeting. Perry might be having a meeting with the River Conservancy in a couple weeks and will get more information at that time.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 2, 2020 at 8:30 at the town hall.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:40

Submitted by Marshall Patmos