

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
May 19, 2022 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer, Jeanette Hubert, Jean Rudolph
Jon Lounsbury, Guests Laurie Burt, Nancy Ranson, Frank Brewersdorff

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

Minutes of the May 5 meeting were approved with some grammatical corrections.

While not present at this meeting Doug Oatley has been appointed as a full-time member and Dick Schmidt, long time member, has chosen to serve as an alternate. Dick has provided valuable input and expertise over the years. The Commission recognizes his efforts and pleased that he has chosen to still participate in some capacity.

We reviewed a Permit-by-Notification (NHRSA 483-A) for harvesting near wetlands on River Road. The area of concern is owned by William Bassler of Spofford.

Marshall updated info on the County Farm harvest. Matt Kelly county forester and a district forester, in addition to logs on the landing, measured all fresh stumps to compute volume and value of harvested timber. Not sure of the timing of road repair and restoration of the site, final volumes, etc. County property manager and county administrator Chris Coates are aware of the problems. It's assumed a report of cut and timber tax payment to the town will be forthcoming.

Marshall reported on the 5/18 zoning board of adjustment meeting concerning construction of 19-unit storage facility adjacent to a wetland and a brook at the industrial park on Route 12 across from London Crossroad. The board has asked for more information from the applicants concerning water runoff and wetland impact adjacent to the project. Marshall pointed out at the meeting that one inch of rain on the proposed 50820 square feet of impervious structures would produce almost 32000 gallons of water to runoff the property. This would certainly create problems downstream and on adjacent property.

The proposed NH Municipal Technical Assistance Grant application proposed by Southwest Regional Planning Commission has apparently been put on hold for now.

The Commission had a discussion with our guest Frank Brewersdorff, who purchased Bob Moore's 26-acre property a few years ago at the end of the Old Moore Road off Route 63. He has questions about restoring his barn and maintaining the property as farmland and raising a variety of farm animals and perhaps making the property available for the public to visit. It would be informal and might be a good opportunity for school classes to visit or other groups. Perhaps even access from the Conn River is a possibility.

We shared a bunch of ideas with him and didn't seem to object to his plans which are certainly in the early stages. He would also like to conserve the property and was told we could help him with that. He was referred to the Monadnock Conservancy and invited to come to another meeting to discuss his plans if he would like.

We continue to have concerns with the environmental impact of the proposed fire station. Contamination of the site and long-term effects on the area downslope and downstream will hopefully be addressed. We haven't had an update yet from Steve Horton of the issues and regulations he was going to address in planning for the fire station.

Jeanette brought up an issue she found concerning EPA requirements for study and report of environmental hazards of a building before demolition can proceed. A quote from the regulations state "It shall also be determined if any type of 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."

We discussed various next step options and what would be the long-term impact and liability of the town should the area become a hazardous waste site in the future. Not sure many people have considered the possibility.

Some of the options we consider are a Federal Environmental Impact Study, an involved long-term process, perhaps official involvement of the NH Department of Environmental Services and follow-up.

We need to schedule another meeting with Steve Horton and perhaps a joint meeting with the Selectboard to discuss our concerns and get some input and perhaps solutions.

Contacting local representatives and perhaps State officials has been suggested and possibly another option for positive results to our concerns.

Given the number of options, those present felt it is worth scheduling another meeting to continue our deliberations. It was voted to schedule a meeting for Thursday May 26 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Marshall will post the meeting notice tonight after the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50

Respectfully Submitted,
Marshall Patmos