

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting

November 4, 2021 Minutes

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer, Jeanette Hubert, Jean Rudolph, Dick Schmidt and guests Tom Finnegan and Bob Bartlett of the Westmoreland Fire Department Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am

Most of the meeting addressed the proposed fire station and our letter to the Selectboard describing concerns primarily wetland and contamination handling issues. Tom Finnegan and Bob Bartlett addressed the issues professionally.

It soon became apparent that the Conservation Commission did not receive copies of important documents as routinely expected including approvals from the NHDES and NHDOT. Tom handed out his responsive letter to the Conservation Commission dated October 21, 2021, addressing the five major points included as attachment 1, Discussion followed on these items as followed.

Regarding the handling of contamination after return to the fire station following a fire, a decontamination area is to be provided. An extractor/washer can be used to clean clothes, and wastewater discharged to the septic system, a practice used at 27 other towns for wastewater. Gear contaminated with hazardous material would be cleaned by a professional contractor. Fire trucks would be cleaned/washed outside to remove dirt, salt and possible soot. NHDES issued a permit for the proposed station in May. April suggested that a truck washing station could be shared with the highway department, this was seen as a good idea.

Regarding construction in a wet area, building codes will be met. Soil borings show that the ground is acceptable for the proposed building. Experience does not indicate a need for pilings.

With the fire station discussion complete, Bob and Tom encouraged further questions and Tom is available to respond. (Note: Googling "F500 fire extinguisher" addresses the Commission's questions on foam fire extinguishers---note added by Dick Schmidt)

Resuming the meeting, April moved to approve our October meeting minutes, seconded by Jeanette and approved by all.

Regarding our letter to Westmoreland landowners with property abutting the Cheshire Rail Trail, the list of recipients and draft letter was reviewed, Marshall will proceed towards a mailing at the next meeting.

Jeanette attended the Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting led by John Snowden. Topics addressed were housing, age-focused planning and accessory dwelling units.

Marshall will submit our 2022 budget request of \$450, same as 2021.

The next WCC meeting is scheduled for December 2 at 8:30 at the Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am

Submitted by Richard Schmidt