

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting
May 11, 2023 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, Perry Sawyer, April Ferguson, Jon Lounsbury, Jean Rudolph,
Doug Oatley
Minutes of the April 13,2023 meeting were approved.

The issue of biosolid composting material was again reviewed as it continues to be a concern related to possible Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFA'S) "forever chemicals" in the material with long term negative environmental impacts on the land and on products grown and consumed from the land. The Commission will continue to research and review available information in order to see if there is any appropriate action it should take to inform and/or enforce its appropriate use.

There was a brief review of the status of the new fire station with no new outstanding concerns.

Jon Lounsbury reported on the success of the roadside cleanup day on April 22 and the tremendous effort by the School, PTA, parents, students and all the volunteers. There were 72 people who worked on 28 miles of road in town collecting 176 bags of litter plus other "stuff".

Next year the date might be earlier so it won't interfere with the 8th grade class trip.

It was suggested that we should perhaps get more safety vests for participants. We will be sending the event results to "NH the Beautiful Inc" in Epsom and perhaps get more bags from them.

There was discussion of a wetland concern about constructing a berm along a waterway at the end of London Crossroad and the filling and construction of a parking area. Marshall will pursue the issue along with an abutting property owner.

With an abundance of downed/damaged trees and branches along roadsides recently, the issue of tree/vegetative management along public roads was discussed. A suggestion has been made to perhaps have the town contract with a private "tree" company to periodically maintain the roadside trees that the town crew isn't able to. The town provided written information from the NH Municipal Association concerning town tree removal along public roads. Under RSA 221:150 municipalities have a duty and right to remove from highway rights of way all trees and bushes that may damage or pose a danger to the highways or traveling public. It goes on to define the size of trees, landowner permission, utility cooperation, special exceptions for "scenic roads" and a number of other issues. The information also recommended Conservation Commission involvement and educational efforts for landowners. The Commission will continue to review the roadside/vegetation issue.

The identification of town natural areas and other unique qualities of our town continue to be of interest along with possible mailings and public sessions encouraging land conservation.

Time was spent sorting through some of the abundant resource material including maps, plans, fact sheets, handbooks, and a wide assortment of material the Commission has in its file at the Town Hall. The effort is substantial, and we plan to spend some time at each our meetings sorting through the information. The data we have will be very helpful for the Master Plan revision this year. April, Jon and Marshall are on the master plan revision committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm-next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 8 at the 7 pm.
Submitted by Marshall Patmos