

Westmoreland Conservation Commission

May 26, 2022 (unapproved minutes)

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer, Jeanette Hubert, Jean Rudolph,
Jon Lounsbury, Doug Oatley, guest selectman John Snowden.
Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting were approved with minor grammatical changes.

We continued our discussion of next steps to assure proper environmental concerns were being addressed by the town in the construction of a new fire station. We shared our concerns with John Snowden. He was aware of many of them, and we had a discussion about them including the contaminated water produced from washing clothes and equipment following a fire. Our issues have been many and reflected in our published minutes of the last couple months.

We have wondered why we never got a response from the selectmen from our 10/12/21 letter to them concerning hazardous contaminants from the new station. John wasn't a selectman at the time and wasn't sure why our letter wasn't addressed or acknowledged directly by the selectmen. He did mention that if a letter is to be entered into the minutes of a selectboard meeting, it must be read aloud at the meeting.

We continued our discussion about OSHA requirements for demolition of the old fire station and the necessity of an Environmental Impact Statement or similar official procedure to ensure proper procedures and the prevention of site contamination and certainly any future town liabilities.

The Commission would like to have another meeting with Steve Horton for an update on his work/findings so far. Better yet a joint meeting with Steve and the Selectboard.

John Snowden told us that the selectmen would like to have periodic joint meetings with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the various groups/committees in town (conservation commission, planning board, zoning board, etc.) to keep everyone apprised of what's going on and discuss issues of interest to the town. We suggested that all members of the groups be included not just chairs and vice chairs since there is always valuable input and ideas from total group membership. Total number of attendees would probably never exceed 30 even if all members attended. John also told us that discussion of issues outside of a group's formal meeting is illegal.

We discussed the 11 specific concerns that were brought to our attention by a downslope landowner of the proposed fire station location and how they coincide with many of our own concerns. The 49 project specific conditions that were stated in the May, 15, 2021 NHDES wetland approval form was mentioned with hopes they will all be addressed.

Our commission is preparing a formal letter to the selectmen regarding our concerns and hope to be able to read it at their next meeting so that it can go into the minutes.

We decided to continue to work on our letter at a our regularly scheduled meeting 8:30 am on June 2, 2022 and present our letter to the selectmen at their afternoon meeting that day.

So that some of our members won't need to juggle their work schedules, we voted to change our official meeting time to 7 pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Following the June 2 meeting our next meeting will be July 14.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am

Submitted by Marshall Patmos