

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

09-11-2025

In attendance:

- Commission Members: Perry Sawyer, Anson Burt, Nancy Zeller, Jonathan Lounsbury, April Ferguson, Jean Rudolph, Joy Fletcher
- Community Members: Paul Steblein, Robert Huckins
- Guests: John Newman from Fieldstone Land Consultants

Meeting called to order by Perry Sawyer at 7:02 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Perry.

Seat any Alternate

- Anson made a motion to seat Jon Lounsbury as an alternate. Seconded by Jean. Motion passed unanimously.

Previous Meeting Minutes

- April made a motion to approve original August meeting minutes as recorded. Seconded by Nancy. Motion passed unanimously.
- Review conducted of Amended August meeting minutes for edits on the Q&A session with Paul by Commission.
- April made a motion to approve the Amendment (stated in a footnote as an additional document) for the August meeting minutes. Seconded by Nancy. Motion was passed unanimously.

Fieldstone review of Survey - John Newman on behalf of Robert Huckins

- Looking for WCC signature on expedited minimum impact wetlands application for a permit on Partridge Brook Rd.
- Need to stabilize the bank along Partridge Brook by placing stone boulders where it's eroding.
- House is currently ~90' from the stream. Need to put a barrier in place to redirect flow of the stream away from the bank. Stream has been removing land from the property line boundary over years of erosion taking place.
- Concern if a barrier is not placed is flooding events put property at risk.
- Work to put a barrier in place will be done by a local contract group.

- DES has 10 working days to respond to the application once signed by the Conservation Commission.
- Motion made by April to approve signing of permit application. Seconded by Anson. Motion was passed unanimously. Perry Sawyer proceeded to sign on behalf of the Westmoreland Conservation Commission.

Creation of Google Drive document retention folder

- Joy informed the WCC that documents would be stored in the WestmorelandComCom@gmail.com Google Drive.
- Everyone will receive an email with access to previous meeting minutes, supportive documents, etc, from the WCC

Japanese Knotweed

- **Old Home Day feedback and discussion on timing/content for town meeting**
 - Many people stopped by the booth to ask questions. Those who seemed hesitant to spray knotweed seemed more open to the idea after the information was detailed about the treatment plan and Best Management Practices
 - Will be important to get the information out to the public on knotweed management.
- **Discussion on knotweed info sent by Paul Steblein on 8/26**
 - Optimal time to spray is after blooming and before first frost.
 - Paul's recommendation for this year would be to spray the area at the Transfer Station. 2 other Westmoreland residents have agreed to do test patches.
 - Land owners must spray on their own property, not authorized to spray on others.
 - Discussion ensued related to application of glyphosate and previous lawsuits related to manufacturing process of Roundup and other herbicides (2,4,5-T, Agent Orange) that were harmful to humans.
 - A. Warning label on Roundup for a compound that could detrimentally affect human gut microbiome.
 - B. Automation now in use and continuous monitoring of the manufacturing process prevents the same issues from occurring that were seen in the 1980's with formation of dioxins.
 - Plants are becoming resistant to glyphosate in some cases.
 - Discussion on safety of glyphosate and studies that both show safety and harm from human exposure.
 - Discussion on Harrisville Conservation Commission management of knotweed.

- Paul recommended a phased approach to treatment of test patches, continuing education in the community, and continued learning on best practices.
- **Updated on knotweed treatment areas**
 - Transfer Station - 3 - 4 feet tall and half covered with leaves vs. 6 feet tall and fully leafed before treatment
- Motion made by Anson for WCC to invite Harrisville Conservation Commission representatives to a future meeting to discuss their knotweed management. Motion seconded by April. Motion passed unanimously.

Land easement update from Monadnock Conservancy – Goodrums Crossing

- Closing scheduled for September 24th. Should the closing be delayed for any reason, it will be rescheduled for September 29th or 30th.

New Business

April made a motion to adjourn at 8:34PM, second by Anson. Motion was passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9th at 7pm at the Westmoreland Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Fletcher