

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
December 3, 2020 meeting (unapproved minutes)

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am.

Present: Marshall Patmos, Perry Sawyer, April Ferguson, Jeanette Hubert

Minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved

Our budget request of \$525 has been submitted. No word of status since submitting.

We reviewed the site plans for new fire station and found no environmental concerns that couldn't be properly addressed. We did feel that it would be good to have it closer/connected to the town hall and provide additional meeting/office space for town officials and residents.

Perry brought up some concerns about a bill introduced to address the perceived conservation easement violation at Windyhurst farm. The wording is a bit troubling as it seems to allow future modifications of easements which could lessen the original goal of permanent land protection. The wording of concern is noted here "if such change is to correct an injustice or for any reason that advances the public good". It seems to be that "public good" could be interpreted in a number of different ways. We are among a number of public groups that have the same concern.

We are planning to continue land conservation outreach efforts to landowners and should plan to review and revise information at a future meeting.

Perry reported on a meeting he attended with the Connecticut River Conservancy concerning the removal/repairs to the bridges connecting Brattleboro and the Hinsdale road.

The pandemic is really controlling our activities as it is the other groups and boards in town. The selectmen are deciding that groups can no longer meet in the town hall without special permission. There will apparently be arrangements for zoom meetings if desired. In person official meetings are apparently not allowed in other than a public building, meaning the town hall.

Unless otherwise determined, our next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Prepared by Marshall Patmos