

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting
June 3, 2021

Present: Marshall Patmos (Chair), April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer, Jeannette Hubert, Dick Schmidt, Jean Rudolph,

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM.

The minutes of the May 6, 2021 meeting were approved.

Concerning the wetland permit for the proposed fire station, no official action has been taken yet and it was decided to delay further action until another vote is proposed for public consideration.

The issue of the handling and disposal of contaminants removed from fire equipment and clothing at the fire station after a fire event has still not been resolved or planned for without official answers so far. We will continue to pursue further with DES.

Regarding the Cheshire Rail Trail North Advisory Committee, we reviewed a draft letter by Dan Shelley to abutters and townspeople describing the plans and benefits of the improvements. There are about 65 abutters. We reviewed a letter that Marshall had drafted and read to those present. It was decided to combine the thoughts of the letters plus samples from other towns. Marshall will draft a new letter and submit it to the members for review.

The roadside cleanup, this year promoted informally, has clearly reduced litter along our roads. Next year we hope to promote the cleanup more formally and distribute more bags.

For discussion purposes, Dick questioned the brush cutting/removal along the west side of Rt. 63 near the intersection of Spofford Road, for a considerable distance. The cleared area goes from Rt. 63 to the stream to the west. General discussion found no concerns regarding the cutting/removal of the riparian buffers. As it was noted by those familiar with the area, much of the vegetation and perennial plants are prolifically replenishing. It was also mentioned that, in the past, this same area was used to graze cattle.

The next WCC meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on Thursday, July 1 at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Submitted by Richard Schmidt