

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
October 1, 2020 meeting

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

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

Minutes of September 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

There was a discussion of a Community Power (CP) concept proposed by the Monadnock Sustainability Hub. A project to get “climate friendly” energy. There is an Oct 6 meeting to discuss the idea. Dick Schmidt submitted some concerns to the hub about competing sources of power but has not heard back yet. We assume we will be keep apprised of the project.

Dan Shelly has agreed to serve on the Cheshire Rail Trail Restoration committee representing Westmoreland on the Rail Trail North Advisory Group involved with the trail from the Keene/Surry town line to Bellows Falls Vermont.

There was a discussion of Fall Webworm that concerns folks. The insects cause the webs in hardwood trees, defoliate them but aren't necessarily fatal. State specialists have visited a heavily infested site on south River road where the 100 acre walnut plantation is located. Haven't heard any follow up info yet on control recommendations they might make.

Members were reminded of the Annual NH Assoc. Conservation Commissions zoom meeting on Nov 7 .

The Commission is still planning to contact landowners concerning conservation easement information but have had to put any public information meetings on hold due to Covid concerns. Hopefully next year will give us an opportunity for public sessions. This concern doesn't preclude sending informational material to folks as before.

The annual roadside cleanup project we sponsor has also been on hold due to the Lions Club dissolution (they always spearheaded the effort) and the Covid concern. The school has expressed some interest along with a few individuals. Hopefully we can put something together for next Spring if not before. While we have some bags to use for collection, we decided to order 2 boxes of 150 bags to have on hand. The bags are available free from “NH the Beautiful/Litter Free NH” in Epsom NH. The effort usually involves 40-50 people collecting more than 100 bags of “stuff”. Marshall will order and make arrangements for picking up the bags.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020 at 8:30am at the Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Submitted by Marshall Patmos