

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting
October 3, 2019 minutes (unapproved)

Present: Marshall Patmos (Chair), April Ferguson, Mary Bradley, Jeannette Hubert, Perry Sawyer, Jim Ranson, Dick Schmidt

Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM.

The minutes of the September 5, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

The Fire Station Advisory Committee presented the status of efforts for a new fire station, with Harry Nelson, Wesley Staples, Bob Bartlett, and Rachel Bartlett present. After considering various locations and options, the favored plan at this point was shown, using SVE drawing C-6. This option would be a new firehouse, twice the footprint area of the current firehouse, located on town-owned land and about 60 feet to the rear of the current firehouse. The new location may impact wetlands, a condition known when the town bought the property, and that was the primary driver to review plans with the Conservation Commission. The small stream that is now routed under Route 63, the post office parking lot and behind the current firehouse would be re-routed under the firehouse driveway close to Route 63. The CC members did not voice any concerns, realizing the importance of a new firehouse to the town, the ideal location for fire-fighting equipment, the major historic disruptions to the land, and the small wetland impact, if any. A more detailed design will be developed and submitted to the DES for approval. The committee was loaned a detailed USDA soil survey for their perusal.

Frank Hunter, head of the Agriculture Advisory Committee (and contributor to other agriculture organizations), attended to observe the workings of the CC. He is pleased with our emphasis on wanting to keep a viable agriculture component in town. We discussed the desire to combine efforts and all agreed that in many town functions, greater coordination and communication is desired. An example is the requirement for the location/layout of food stands. All agreed that there is difficulty in getting volunteer action, particularly outside of meetings.

John Lukin, an ex-member recently moved to Massachusetts, stopped by for a visit.

The Shoreland Protection Permit Notification for the new river-side garage at 42 Ferry Road was discussed. Marshall will contact DES regarding perceived oversights in the process. This led to a discussion of perhaps more enforcement action needed by the town on a variety of issues as they arise.

The next WCC meeting will be held at 8:30 AM on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at Town Hall.

Following a motion by Mary, a second by Dick, and full support, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Submitted by Richard Schmidt