

Washington Conservation Commission
Minutes – February 7, 2024

Assembly time: 7:00 PM, meeting at Town Hall.

Members present: Arin Mills, Jed Schwartz and Nan Schwartz

Visitors: Ed Thayer

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes: January, Jed made a motion to approve as written, Arin seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- 2.0 Permits Committee –
New: **Mata**, Kingsbury Hill Rd, TM 17-3, Forestry PBN, complete
Previous:
Todd Mandriola, 90 Lookout Point Rd, Shoreland PBN, house addition and new water line, accepted
Calabro – DES approved the tree planting, reforestation plan
Cote, TM 24-58, 46 Lookout Point Road, DES asking for response on one outstanding request
***Colette** - Complaint of violations, TM 12-69, over clearing of waterfront zone, no follow up yet
** these are complaints with no follow up by DES, Arin will make an information request on these.*
- 3.0 Committee and Board reports
 - 3.1 Land Protection Committee – No news
 - 3.2 Energy Committee – No news
 - 3.3 Planning Board – Nan said that the Driveway proposed changes will be on a ballot at Town Meeting. They are beginning to discuss Solar energy systems and regulating them (set backs and permitting, etc).
 - 3.4 Forestry Committee – No news
 - 3.5 Legislative – No news.
- 4.0 Public Presentations and workshops –
 - 4.1 WES visit – Arin said that Kelly is back and she spoke to her about a vernal pool presentation for late April/ early May. Nan suggested that we go on the Friday before April vacation (April 19th) with an alternate date of May 3rd when they return). Arin will set a date with Kelly. We will bring our materials (power point, games, etc) to review to the March meeting.
- 5.0 New Business:
 - 5.1 East Washington Town Forest – Ed Thayer brought in the plans that Meridian has developed for the access road up into the lot to make it possible to mine the gravel on the lot. Arin had previously sent him comments on the plan, which Meridian provided answers to. Nan asked about the 15% grade in one section. Ed said they would have to do extensive blasting to get a better grade and that is too expensive. Arin had asked about several areas on the map and Ed explained they are sedimentation ponds lined with stone to catch water runoff. These will need to be maintained by DPW. Arin asked about vernal pools on site. Ed said they didn't map any. There were a few areas on the map that could be vernal pools but we weren't sure what they were. Ed said that the stream crossing is a Tier 1, requiring a 54" culvert with a 50 year storm capacity. The town can't maintain one that large. Ed had wanted a bridge but there were numerous issues with that. He said there is 60' feet of sand in the area they want to access. He said there is no paving on the roadway. He said they are putting \$5K in a reserve fund this year at Town Meeting for future work on this project. He said it is many years out at this point. Ed said that they need to close the old pit in East Washington first. We discussed a few other culvert and bridge projects that are pending.
- 6.0 Other Business:
 - 6.1 Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pickup – Done until next spring.
 - 6.2 Tom Davis – Arin send the letter out and copied the Select Board. Jed also spoke with Tom Davis and explained our decision.
 - 6.2 Trails and Recreation Guide Booklet – Arin has been working on the maps again. Arin will send the new maps she has to Nan to put in the document.

- 6.3 Facebook Page – Arin said she is continuing to post items when she can. To check out the CC's Facebook page go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2173271309586226/>
- 6.4 CMPC document – We didn't review this tonight but will do so next meeting. Arin will work on an accompanying map for the document.

7.0 What's Happening in Nature?

Arin has seen coyotes crossing the ice on the lake in LAE.

Jed has seen deer tracks and a bedding area up the hill in East Washington.

Nan mentioned that Shawn and Ed are both tapping their Maple trees, hoping to catch the first run when it gets warm later this week.

Jed has started his onion and lettuce plants in the greenhouse.

We have had a decent amount of snow that is sticking around and had 10 days of no sun, the sun is out now but we are expecting some warm (50s) days later this week.

Arin said her bird feeder is busy with lots of Blue Jays.

Jed has lots of Goldfinches, Chickadees, Juncos and Tit Mice, a couple of Mourning Doves and a few Blue Jays. He finally has a couple of Squirrels coming around to clean up the bird seed. He also mentioned seeing 3 Blue Birds in January and thought that was highly unusual.

Arin said that Phil saw a very large flock (hundreds) of Robins in Hancock recently. We wonder what they could be eating. She saw some Robins eating Mountain Ash berries on Sunapee Mountain recently.

To learn more about spotting Robins in winter, click here: NewinNature.html

8.0 Correspondence:

- 8.1 Copy of Notice from DES to Calabro concerning their tree restoration plan.

9.0 Adjourned at 8:35 PM, the next meeting is March 13th at 7PM, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Schwartz, Secretary