

WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and Adjourned at 9:10 PM

Attending Heather Shand, Jeff Pelton, Howard Beach, Roy Burton, Harry Temple, George Ainley, Natalie Corbo, Tina Wood and guest, Sven Fedorow, Land Use Administrator

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR: The new by-laws Sven is presenting would streamline the process of applying for a permit in order to reduce the time and money it takes and also to lessen the burden and delays on applicants. He suggests turning it into a 30 day process with the CC evaluating the impact of the proposed development on habitat or waiving its right to comment. Under these proposed by-law changes the CC may or maynot visit the site and may attach conditions to its development. This gives the CC a little more regulating power in the development projects rather than just advisory. It would enable the CC to enforce the State's regulation of a 300' buffer for the deer wintering habitat areas and the prohibition of removing soft wood trees from the area. This would put the town more in compliance with the state.

We discussed the problem of a strict 30 days time period between receipt of the zoning permit application and the CC written statement, amendments and conditions. There will be no extension of time granted as the zoning permit is "deemed issued" on the 31st day. The problem is due to the fact that the CC meets only once a month which would provide very little time to arrange a site visit, walk the site and write a report evaluating the impact of the proposed development. The CC could also choose to waive a written comment if there is no impact on the habitat.

There was much discussion and much to think about in adopting these new proposed by-laws There may well be changes to them as they are examined by other Boards.

PROGRAMS: Heather reported on the 'Lyme' talk given last month which was well-attended by thirty people with much discussion and questions following a slide presentation.

The next program, 'Bobcats' will be on October 25 at the Center Meeting House at 7:00 PM. Kim Royar, a State Biologist, will give the talk and slide presentation, hopefully, with actual a stuffed lynx and a bobcat. We're hoping that some youngsters will attend given the subject's appeal. The publicity will be done by all of us putting out the information to various list-servs, news outlets, the Library, Town Office, etc. Refreshments will be served.

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES: Heather alerted us to a State sponsored conference on Town Government "When Government Cooperate" on Oct. 25 in Springfield (half-day), Oct. 26 in Montpelier (Full-day), Nov. 1 in Rutland (full-day) and Nov. 2 in Essex Junction (half-day).

Also, there will be an invasive plants 'A Thorny Problem' hands-on program sponsored by the Upper Valley Land Trust in Charlestown NH on Oct. 6, 9:00- 12:00 on Richardson Road.

TOWN-OWNED LAND PROJECT- Ed Morris had asked us to see what we could find out about the lands the Town owns. Looking on a map there is a landlocked piece of 10 acres somewhere between Mountain View Road and Lavigne Road. Roy and Jeff will go to the Town Office to find out more about it and locate it on a tax map. Then several members will walk it.

OLD BUSINESS- There is enough money in our budget to financially support the Photo Contest once again and we will make more plans about it the next time we meet.

SCHEDULE-Next CC meeting will be canceled due to it being on the same night as the Bobcat talk, unless there is pressing business to attend to. The following meeting will be Nov. 29, a week later due to Thanksgiving on our usual 3rd Thursday. No meeting in December due to all the Holidays.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wood