

## **WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**March 25, 2021**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Heather Shand, Jeff Pelton, Roy Burton, Patricia Nash, Ellen Clattenburg, Cheryl Cox, Howard Beach, Tyler Harwell and Ryan Gumbart

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM and adjourned at 8:30 PM

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES, FEBRUARY 25, 2021 MEETING:**

Howard made a motion to accept the minutes without amendment.

Cheryl – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No discussion

Vote – Unanimous

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Discussion led to the decision for the officers to remain in their current positions.

Ellen made a motion to cast one ballot for the slate of officers with Heather as Chairperson, Jeff as Vice-Chairperson, Ryan as Secretary and Roy as Treasurer.

Howard – 2<sup>nd</sup>

No further discussion

Vote – Unanimous

### **CC MEMBER OPENING:**

Following the distribution of the March meeting agenda Patricia Nash joined the Conservation Commission. This fills all available positions on the 9-member commission. The commission welcomes Patricia and thanks her for her interest in serving the Town.

### **REVIEW OF OUTLINE OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION SITE VISIT:**

Heather wanted to receive input from the Commission before sending it to Chris Whidden for his review. Ryan asked if there was a fill in the blank sheet that ever accompanied this outline. Ellen did not think that a fill in the blank type sheet would be practical for a site visit as more extensive notes are often required. Ryan suggested creating a field sheet to assist with data collection. He also suggested adding notes about current land use prior to development and noting abutting land uses. Howard explained that in the past the responsibility for the site review for developments was redirected from the Conservation Commission to a professional organization to put the onus of approval on a private firm. The purpose of reviewing this outline is to bring the Conservation Commission back in to advise on the projects. Ellen added that the part of the value of including the conservation commission in the review is for the education of the landowner, who often appreciates the natural and historical context of their project.

### **TOWN FOREST DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

*-Weathersfield/ATA Cooperative Agreement:*

Heather had reached out to Olivia Savage about the status of the agreement and for the notes from the review by the town's lawyers and if any changes were made. Olivia told Heather that it

will be put on the Selectboard's agenda in the future. Jeff added that Olivia had told him that it will be on the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda but Jeff thinks that it is subject to change. Members of the Town Forest sub-committee will attend this meeting to provide information as needed. ATA members will be invited to attend as well. Howard suggested having them attend virtually to reduce the amount of people in person.

*-Other:*

Ellen, in conversation with a friend, had discussed implementing interpretative and historical signs along trails in the Town Forest in the future. Ryan agreed; this will be included in the Town Forest Trail Plan.

#### **WATERWAY NAMING PROJECT UPDATE:**

Jeff explained for Pat and the rest of the commission the history of the project and the current status. Jeff is currently adding wetlands to the project and once all waterbodies have proposed names, they will need to have petitions signed for each.

#### **WCC SPONSORED WORKSHOP/HIKE IDEAS:**

*-Spring: beaver deceiver/Tyler Brown (Ryan):*

Tyler Brown is expected to be back in the office at the beginning of April and Ryan will reach out to him to set up a date and location for the walk. Jeff mentioned that we should lead a walk in the Town Forest once covid restrictions have been relaxed. Ellen will ask Ray Stapleton about the use of power tools and equipment for the Town Forest.

#### **OTHER/NEW BUSINESS:**

Heather will find out about having in person meetings for next month's meeting. Ellen provided an update on the Tenney Tree Memorial. The statewide Conservation Commissions Meeting will be held virtually on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Jeff provided information from Kelly Stetner of the Black River Action Team regarding water sampling for the 2021 season.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Connecticut River Joint Commission will be hosting a "Hydropower Happy Hour" event on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Next WCC Meeting:** April 22, 2021, at 7:00 PM, Location TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Gumbart