

WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OCTOBER 22, 2020

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

ATENDEES: Chris Whidden (Land Use Administrator)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM and adjourned at 8:25 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 2020 MEETING: Minutes were accepted without amendment.

WCC SPONSORED EAB WALK - RECAP: Roy Burton and Ryan Gumbart led an educational walk for the town to discuss the impacts of emerald ash borer. The walk was well attended including both residents and non-residents of Weathersfield. It was suggested that another walk potentially be held next year.

TOWN FOREST DISCUSSION ITEMS:

WEATHERSFIELD/ATA COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT: The commission is waiting for comments from the Town Manager. The agreement will be given to Olivia Savage, the commissions contact for the Town Manager. Cheryl, Jeff and Ryan will meet to create a trail plan to guide the long-term use of the Town Forest.

SIGNS/SIGN MAKERS: Roy, Jeff and Ryan will meet to install the "Weathersfield Town Forest" sign.

OTHER: Jeff has emailed Rebecca Chalmers to follow up about wetland permitting for the access trail off Thrasher Road as well as some internal trails. No update from the Selectboard about the land off Thrasher Road that was to be used for parking.

UPDATE OF TRAIL/LANDMARK IN NAME OF HARRY TEMPLE: Ellen has been working on contacting Ethan Phelps and Tim Morton from the State to work out the details of naming a lookout for Harry Temple along the Weathersfield Trail.

WCC SPONSORED WORKSHOP/HIKE IDEAS:

OUTDOOR ANIMAL TRACKING WORKSHOP: Heather will look into the cost of hiring Sue Morse to lead a tracking walk, as well as other potential leaders for the walk.

GAME OF LOGGING: Not discussed. May be cost prohibitive.

SOCIAL DISTANCE TOWN FOREST HIKE: Jeff suggested leading a snowshoe hike this winter.

FALL/WINTER - BEAVER DECEIVER: Ryan will contact Tyler Brown from VT Fish & Wildlife about leading a walk to Cook's Pond to see a beaver baffle device. Other people in the Springfield office such as Beth Adler and Forest Hammond may be interested in leading walks.

OTHER/NEW BUSINESS: Howard came across a grant opportunity through the State pertaining to water quality. He suggested this may provide an opportunity to replace and upgrade culverts in town. Howard will ask Ray Stapleton if the Highway Department is aware of the grant opportunity. Tyler suggested informing the Black River Action Team about the grant opportunity as it may help them improve water quality testing, particularly the Stoughton Pond swimming area. Jeff has spent time volunteering with BRAT and explained what their testing has found pertaining to the Stoughton Pond swimming area.

Next WCC Meeting: November 19, 2020, at 7:00 PM, Weathersfield Proctor Library

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Gumbart