

Weathersfield Conservation Commission

Thursday, May 26, 2022, 7 PM

Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse, Center Rd

Remote: <https://www.weathersfieldvt.org/home/news/public-meetings-zoom>

Present: Ryan Gumbart, Cheryl Cox, Roy Burton, Jeff Pelton, Howard Beach, Ellen Clattenburg

Guests: Patti Arrison, Todd Hindinger

Ryan convened the meeting at 7:05 pm

Minutes: Jeff Pelton moved and Cheryl Cox seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2022 WCC meeting. All voted in favor.

Town Forest:

- Cabin removal: The first day of cabin removal is scheduled for Sunday June 12 from 8-12 noon. Jeff Pelton has a number of possible volunteers. Volunteers should bring eye protection and tools (hammers, cat's paws, pry bars, sledge hammer, crow bars, electric drills to remove roofing screws) and the WCC will provide dust masks and contractors trash bags. Jeff Pelton will secure Brandon Gulnick's permission to dispose of trash from the site at the transfer station.
 - Ryan Gumbart will bring his gator to ferry things in and out of the site; Howard Beach will bring his truck to transport items to be disposed of.
 - Parking along the road in front of the Abbotts is fine with them, just do not block their driveway.
 - To be tackled: getting the downed tree out of the way; removing wiring, insulation, sink from the inside; metal sheets and plywood on the roof.
 - Another half day will be scheduled when all the volunteers are together on June 12.
- Powerline interpretive signage: Ryan Gumbart has been in touch with VELCO and they will provide interpretive signet about powerline maintenance and the value of shrubland (which is primarily located under power lines and in abandoned sand pits.
- At the same time, Ryan addressed the ruts left by VELCO machinery and these will be filled in by VELCO.
- ATA Signage: The ATA is working on adding signs and blazes to their trails in the Town Forest. The State will make the signage to mark the entrance which will match their signage; the ATA will add paint blazes to Cloudspin; and, at Ryan's request, the ATA will add four maps showing "you are here" on posts along the trail to provide orientation for trail users.
- Kiosk: Jeff Pelton will touch base with Matt Keniston about progressing on this project.

Town Plan

The two visitors to the meeting helped answer Conservation Commission questions on the new Town Plan and map including providing background on state requirements for Town Plans (how often, what is the procedure) and the next Selectboard meeting on June 6 when this will come up again. Discussion

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ranged from terminology (PUD /PRD) to how the plan has changed over the years and explanations of what those changes might mean. In addition to this discussion, the WCC was brought up to date on the Ascutney water main, state ideas to manage wastewater in villages where there is no municipal wastewater treatment. Other questions raised were how village zoning will change, what about forest blocks and connectors, how does the plan address retaining the rural nature of the town and affordable housing. No action taken, this was an informational session.

ARPA fund proposal: this was tabled till next month.

Biannual conservation events:

- Cheryl Cox and Ellen Clattenburg described the June 11 walk at the Ainley/Garland farm to learn about growing trees. This event will be at 9 am, rain or shine, wear tick protection.
- Jeff/Roy will organize a winter event, perhaps getting Chris Bernier to talk about the weasel family
- Jeff Pelton will try to organize a fall walk from Wellwood Orchard to the reservoir
- Ellen Clattenburg has been in touch with Harry Temple's daughters. When the memorial service is planned, they know to contact the Conservation Commission and others to let people know. The Harry's Lookout sign is mounted along the Weathersfield Trail and Steve Aikenhead may be able to include it on one of his summer hikes.

New Business:

- Parks and Rec holding a fishing derby on June 18 -- EAB, stream naming petitions
- Jeff reported that all the stream petitions have been signed
- Jeff Pelton passed around an updated budget area worksheet and a description of interpretive signage (for the town forest, after the Forest Plan has been developed)

Adjournment:

- Roy Burton moved, and Howard Beach seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:57 pm.. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Clattenburg