

**Weathersfield Conservation Commission**  
**Thursday, August 25, 2022, 7 PM**  
**Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse, Center Rd**

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

Minutes: There was one correction to the minutes of July 28: Howard Beach offered to transport the kiosk sections, not Ryan. With this correction noted, Jeff Pelton moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Howard Beach seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Town Forest

Cabin: The dismantled cabin needs to be removed and taken to the transfer station. A date was set for 8 am September 17. Brandon has given permission to dispose of the debris at the transfer station. Ryan will send out a reminder email. Howard will bring his trailer and Ryan will bring his gator. Jeff has spoken to Hodgden Brothers who will take the copper. Jeff and Hodgden Brothers have not actually hooked up yet, but they will. The money will be put in our account.

Kiosk: Roy Burton urged the commission to pay for the materials not to receive them as donations even though Bibens has offered this. We do have other Town Forest-related costs such as the stream crossing and interpretive signs, so getting a donation for part of our expenses would be a big help. There was no agreement on this, and since Matt Keniston, who offered to build the kiosk, is not currently available, this item was put on hold until September. Ryan will email Matt in mid September and he will also contact Bibens to see if they are still willing to donate the lumber. If they do, we will give public acknowledgement through a news release, a notice on the kiosk itself, etc.

Waterway naming project

Jeff continues to work on this project and has contacted many state and federal individuals for answers, though all have not yet responded. All waterways are regulated by order of the federal government, but each state is left to regulate through their own mechanisms. One question we've been asked – is there a regulatory difference for perennial versus intermittent streams? The National Hydrologic dataset (part of the USGS) shows no difference on maps between perennial and intermittent. Jeff received an answer from Jennifer Runyon of the USGS: "It [perennial or intermittent] has no bearing on whether a stream should be named," implying that the regulations are the same for both waterbodies. Whether intermittent or not, the state requires a 25 foot buffer on both sides of the stream. If animals are pastured nearby, this buffer needs to be fenced off.

Jeff handed out the last iteration of the letter to town residents about the waterbody naming endeavor. Heather suggested adding an end date for comments and questions. Ryan suggested changes to the signature (now Weathersfield Conservation Commission) and contact information (Land Use Department via phone, email, or

mail to give residents lots of options). After the comment period, the Waterway Naming project will be presented to the Planning Commission and the Selectboard. Jeff then described the process going forward, ending ultimately at the USGS. Jeff has a couple changes to make on the Proposal to Name Waterways in Weathersfield, Vermont. Ryan will check with Olivia on the timing of sending out the letter (in order to set the month-long comment period to be included in the letter). Official naming of streams does not trigger regulations because all these streams are regulated anyway. Official naming just makes for less confusion and adds a sense of history to the water bodies.

Jeff moved that the letter about stream naming be accepted as amended. This was seconded by Howard, and all voted in favor

Winter talk:

Roy called Mary Beth Adler who specializes in wildlife habitat. She will be in touch with Roy after our meeting, so nothing definite to report at this point.

Interpretive signage

Ellen has gone over the information from Jeff, noting that individual signs, according to his handout – can cost between \$2,000-\$3,500 per sign. How many signs are we talking about? It was suggested that she contact more people to get estimates or find out where they had signs made. She will send the WCC a draft of a proposal for interpretive signage by mid September. Even though we will not have the Town Forest Plan soon, we could get at least one or two signs done such as the history of the Town Forest, what is a Town Forest, etc. Ellen promised to send a draft request (for the ARPA funds) to the WCC in two weeks.

Budget

The State Conservation Commission Annual Meeting has not had a date set yet. Attendance for at least two of the board members would come out of our budget.

A question about \$1700 in our budget came up. Heather reported that this came from a grant from years ago, and to be accessed requires selectboard approval.

Update from the Land use department

Boards are asked to update members on what other boards are doing. Ryan reported that the Planning Commission is working on the energy section which includes a big section on natural resources. He shared this part of the town plan with commissioners and asked that we send updates and suggestions to the Planning Commission. He also noted that the PC is looking at updating the PUD section. Regarding this, it was noted that there is nothing in the state regs on how much land must be dedicated to open space in a PUD. And the question then arose whether there is a guideline on how much open space the town will require.

Also, Ryan reported that the closed hearing on the Springfield dam just happened. Our WCC advice (which was solicited earlier) was to have a long term plan clarified. Prior to this hearing, there was discussion that land would go to Weathersfield once the dam is removed.

Howard updated the WCC on the Conn. River Joint Commission and will be sharing projects with the WCC that are on the regional list. He put a plug in for several that are in Weathersfield.

New Business

Harry Temple's celebration of life is Sept. 17 at 1 pm on Echo Lake.

Ryan will check on the status of our subscription to Northern Woodlands.

Roy shared an article and photo of a lantern fly and warned that we should all be on the lookout for this dangerous invasive insect.

Howard Beach moved and Cheryl Cox seconded the motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Clattenburg