

WEATHERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

OCTOBER 24, 2019

ATTENDING: Heather Shand, Jeff Pelton, Roy Burton, Cheryl Cox, Tyler Harwell, Harry Temple and Tina Wood
Guests: Ray Stapleton, Road Commissioner, and Marie Caduto, Basin 10 Water coordinator

Meeting called to order: 7:05

Minutes from Sept. 26, were accepted as read, moved by Cheryl and seconded by Jeff.

MARIE CADUTO'S PRESENTATION: There are 17 watershed river basins in VT. and Basin 10 is the watershed of the Ottauquechee and the Black rivers. She monitors the water quality, the aquatic habitats, the riparian buffers and much more. The North-South ridge running through the middle of Weathersfield roughly divides the watershed into the waterways either running East to the Conn. river or West into the Black river. The North Branch of the Black river is particularly stressed due to erosion, sediment build-up, bacteria levels and lack of plant growth in the riparian buffer zones. Also, the fluctuating water levels due to the Army Corps. holding back water is problematic.

Some of the other waterways in town that she studies and has rated are:

Bloodbrook- rated good but not tested recently

Sherman Brook- Good before it flows under RT. 131 but poor South of it (due to a chemical spill when the State last work there.). And by the time it gets to Piper Rd. it is rated good again.

The North Branch of the Black river is tested by the Black River Action Team (BRAT) near Little Ascutney Rd. where Tarbell Hill Rd. comes into Rt. 106.

The Tolles Power dam is tested and maintained by the Army Corps.

Beaver Pond meets standard and Marie suggested that it might be upgraded to a class one designation, the highest.

Stoughton Pond is poor and impaired due to toxic algae blooms. It is tested and maintained by the Army Corps.

Cook's Pond's watershed is highly disturbed.

Springfield Reservoir is highly disturbed and has been taken out of its designation as a drinking supply category.

North Springfield Dam area suffers from the altered flow of the river, continual level fluctuations, and many invasive species.

Marie suggested some projects that we might be interested in doing such as: stormwater mapping, monitoring water quality, improving the boat access at the Bow, volunteering for BRAT, purchasing land conservation easements on stream banks, planting trees and other plants along the riparian buffers and reclassification of abandoned water supplies. She suggested we look at the website 'Clean Water Portal Explorer' (anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/cleanwater/dashboard/projectexplorer.aspx). There is a map on the ANR website where the state is doing an inventory of dams in the State. We could add to it with dams that we know of in Weathersfield.

It was a very informative talk and we thanked Marie for coming to our meeting and sharing with us the important work that she is doing.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We receive an annual appropriation from the town for \$500.

Our current balance stands at \$1765.48. Roy will find out if we need approval for spending money from our budget. Tyler moved and Tina seconded that we reimburse Roy and Jeff \$25 each for the cost of registration for the ANR workshop which they

attended.

COYOTE TALK: The talk on 'Coyotes' given by Kim Royer and David Persons on Oct.22 was very well attended with a full hall and standing room only! Good job on Publicity by Ellen, Cheryl and Heather. We made \$17 in donations.

TOWN FOREST: The workday on Oct. 19, from 9-12 at the Town Forest which Jeff organized was very productive. Four conservation members joined with seven members of STAB (Sport Trails in Ascutney Basin) and cleared 1/4 mile of trail and a path through the power line crossing into the woods to the cabin. This will be very helpful for future work.

The access to the Town Forest from Thrasher Road that we have been working on since 2015 has met another problem. The Selectboard found that there is a bank lien on the property so further delays are inevitable.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Next meeting: Nov. 21 at 7 PM at the Weathersfield Center Meeting House. Note: this is the third Thursday, due to Thanksgiving on the 4th Thurs., our usual meeting day.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Wood, Sec.