

## **Weathersfield Conservation Commission**

**Thursday, May 25, 2023**

### **Weathersfield Center Memorial Grove**

**Present:** Ryan Gumbart, Howard Beach, Cheryl Cox, Heather Shand, Ellen Clattenburg and **guests** Susan Wilder, Paul Austin, Marina Garland

**Agenda review:** Ryan reviewed the meeting agenda and asked for any additions

**Minutes:** April 27, 2023 Ellen moved and Howard seconded the motion to accept the minutes of April 27, 2023. All voted in favor.

#### **Town Forest:**

- Cabin Removal – The commissioners will complete the cabin removal on July 15 at 9 am
- Kiosk — Ryan will contact Matt Keniston about the construction and Ellen will call Peter Torney at Bibens to collect the materials they are donating toward the kiosk.
- Interpretive trail - There was a Town ARPA meeting with Brandon for everyone interested in how funds are spent. Another meeting will be held soon to continue gathering information. Ryan was there to submit our interpretive sign estimate.
- Ryan will check in with County Forester Hannah Dallas on our forest plan (to see how it's coming).

**Water naming project:** Nothing more needs doing on our end. Ryan will get this put on the Select board agenda.

**CPR** – no discussion.

**Children's Fishing Derby** — 10-2 on June 10. We'll have a table, Fish & Wildlife will provide a game, and we will put out any information we have (invasive plants, etc.). Ryan will be there the whole time, Ellen will be there for the first hour.

**Recreation and Goods Festival** - 12 to 8 pm July 8, Hoisington Field. Ryan reported that it may not be as big as they hoped. Cheryl suggested a game (scavenger hunt) and a prize or prizes. Those completing the scavenger hunt will get their names dropped in a bowl and the winner(s) names will be picked out. Heather moved that Cheryl can spend up to the \$170 we have remaining in our balance, Ellen seconded, all approved. Cheryl will buy these items. Everyone will try to be there to cover our table for part of the day.

#### **Planning Commission Updates -**

- They would like to work more closely with the CC on the Town Plan (such as scenic viewsheds).

- There will be a hearing on the use tables (as bylaws changed, the use tables were not updated). At least one of us should be present.
- The Planning Commission is working on the PUD bylaws. We may get involved in the conservation district (C10). Howard pointed out that calling it C10 makes it sound as if the parcel shouldn't be developed. R10 would suggest there is steepness or other issues that make it better to have 1 house. Howard suggested that C10 could be reserved for true conservation areas that the town does not want developed. Currently about 68% of town is in C10 but it's not clear when or why that change occurred. There's some discussion about turning it back to 20% (which was pre 1995).

Ryan asked for a map from the regional planners showing steep slopes and elevations above 2500 as well as conserved land. He will be showing this with other overlays at the June 12 Planning Commission meeting.

The Energy section and the PUD bylaws are being updated.

**Budget** — \$170 left. July 1 is the start of the new fiscal year.

#### **New Business**

- Basin 10 comment meeting – Howard and Ellen reported on this meeting held on 5/24
  - CT river will cease its 6' rise and fall when the new licensing is completed (licenses last 50 years!) because the dams will do continuous generation vs peak generation
  - Clean Water Project Explorer:
  - <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/cleanWaterDashboard/ProjectExplorer.aspx>

**Adjournment** – Howard moved, Heather seconded, all voted in favor at 7:54 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Clattenburg

Next Meeting will be June 29, 2023 (actually the FIFTH Thursday in June).