

Weathersfield Conservation Commission

Thursday, July 27, 2023

Weathersfield Center Meeting House

Present: Ryan Gumbart, Heather Shand, Cheryl Cox, Howard Beach, Ellen Clattenburg, and Marina Garland who is applying to join the Commission

Minutes: June 29, 2023. Heather moved that the minutes of June 29, 2023 be accepted; Cheryl seconded the motion and all voted to approve the motion.

Town Forest:

Kiosk - Ellen has given Peter Torney at Bibens a list of the materials we asked for and he has confirmed Bibens will donate these. Ellen will pick these up and also contact Matt Keniston about helping us build the kiosk this fall (or sooner if he is around).

Interpretive trail - The selectmen will prioritize maintenance projects when deciding how the ARPA funds will be used. Since our submission is a new one and will create more maintenance, it will not be a priority. Ryan will send Brandon Gulnick our estimate again as it didn't appear on the list of ARPA hopefuls.

Hannah Dallas still working on the forest plan

The cabin removal was completed on July 22. Ryan, Howard, Jeff, Cheryl, Bruce and Ellen were there.

Waterway naming project

Marie Caduto spoke with Ryan to explain her original request. She has a list of streams with conflicting names and no names. August Murray has offered to help the Conservation Commission. We decided that we must address this project differently and so will go back to the beginning. We will identify Marie Caduto's request and then approach the Select Board to ask for approval to start work on her request.

We should identify the streams Marie originally asked about. WCC members should look at the list Jeff came up with and send the names we find to Ryan.

Nature Walk

As our original Nature walk has to be postponed because of the mess left by the impoundment of waters in the Flood Control Area, we are going to offer a walk from another Weathersfield park and ask if Parks and Rec would like to co-sponsor it.

August 5, 8:30 am, Salmond Covered Bridge on Sherman Brook. There will be some history, birds, and plant identification. We'll head up Ascutney Notch Road for a short way. Ryan will check with Ray about parking and with Parks and Rec about co-sponsoring. Cheryl will send out the press releases.

New Member packet

Ryan prepared this, Cheryl made some changes

We added a number of past projects to give new members a better idea of what types of projects the conservation commission has been involved in

It is ready to share

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Ryan will remind Brandon that both Marina Garland and Anna Vogel would like to join the Commission

Land use update

Aug. 7 the use tables and bylaws will go to the Selectboard - this will give a clean slate

The Town Plan update is due by 2025 (there will be many things for us to be involved in)

The plan is to start with a map of Weathersfield – a conceptual map - breaking the town into protection areas and development areas. With this conceptual map as the basis for discussion, it should be clearer how to address the rest of the plan

New Business

We should update the brochure describing farm products available locally - As part of the Town Plan, there's a piece that notes that the town will support local agriculture. And Vermont hopes to grow 30% of our food needs by 2030.

Heather moved that the meeting be adjourned, Ellen seconded. This motion was approved at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Clattenburg, secretary

Next meeting: August 24 at 7 pm, Weathersfield Center Meeting House or Memorial Grove (depending on weather and mosquitoes)