

## WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 9/26/24 at 7:00 P.M  
Westminster West Library, in person meeting  
Or, for Zoom link, contact: westminstervtconservation@gmail.com

1. Call to Order: meeting called to order at 7:07 pm Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Sarah Waldo, Rachael Shaw, Kestrel Craig, Jim Calchera.
2. Adjustments to Agenda: none
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 7/25/24 – Minutes read and accepted. Tatiana moved we accept the minutes, Kestrel seconded, Minutes accepted by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment:
  - a. Jens Hilke of VT Fish and Wildlife sent the following email to our Commission: “The Community Wildlife Program of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department is pleased to announce our Fall Webinar Series! The series is focused for municipal volunteers, town planners and regional planning commission staff interested in conservation at the local level. All webinars are recorded and added to our Video Library of previous offerings.

Fall 2024 Webinar topics. See below for descriptions, date/time and registration information.

- Understanding Vermont Conservation Design: The data behind BioFinder
- Sharing Like Cats and Dogs: Bobcats & Coyotes on the Vermont Landscape
- Gray and Green Infrastructure: How Vermont's bridges and culverts add to our network of connected lands and waters.
- Reconnecting the Greens Mountains: A multi-pronged approach for enabling wildlife movement

b. Isabel Bowman WCNRCD emailed our CC inviting us to the annual meeting of the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District- Thursday Nov 14 5-7pm at the Scott Farm orchard. Keynote by Vern Grubinger. Donations for dinner \$10-\$50 per family. For those interested in joining us at 3pm we will be touring recent water quality improvements that the district implemented at the Dummerston Covered Bridge. No registration required for this portion of the event. Space is limited, please register here, [www.windhamcountynrcd.org/annual-meeting-registration](http://www.windhamcountynrcd.org/annual-meeting-registration) or email [blunk.wcnrcd@gmail.com](mailto:blunk.wcnrcd@gmail.com) with any questions.

c. We received an email from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation noting that they are looking to hire a Wetlands Ecologist.

#### 5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –

a) Beaver Working Group/BEEC program update –no update

b) Natural Resources section of TP – update -Tatiana reported that from our Selectboard meeting attendance, we learned that the new planning commission has 5 members. (they would ideally like 9). They are going to be working on the Town Plan over the next 18 months. Lachlan Francis reported that they would like to hire an outside consultant to make sure that the Town Plan was legal, which the Windham Regional Commission may be able to help with.

c) Church Planting maintenance –Sarah was the last one to water, it was very dry. Sarah will bring some bright poles to mark the plants.

d) Other programs/projects – follow up –

1. riparian buffer project- no word from Cory Ross or Vic Baisley.

2. Biodiversity Inventory- no update. Sarah will try to find out how Guilford got funding.

3. Town forest planning - we could plan another walk for mid December at our October meeting. It might make sense to have another survey done before any trail making happens, unless boundary markers are still visible/clear from the last logging project of about 10 years ago.

e) Budget for conservation commission - annual budget of towns of our size \$500-\$2500. Tatiana and Kestrel will do some research on what other towns have in their budgets. Tatiana will send a query to the list-serve of the other CCs.

6. New Business:

a) Report back from Putney CC meeting- Jim Calchera reported that the Putney CC oversees several conservation sites, works on controlling invasives, and has coordinated with DFW and WRC on trail maps and maps of forest blocks (with a goal of preventing fragmentation and figuring out animal corridors).

b) Westminster watershed designations - Rachael will contact Marie Caduto and do some research with the goal of doing a (series) of educational articles about the watersheds of Westminster.

c) Traffic impact on wildlife - there is a call from local residents to lower the speed limit in WW village to 25 Mph. We could possibly develop some signage for wildlife corridor crossings, as these are determined.

7. Other Business: none

8. Date of Next Meeting: October 24th, Westminster Institute

9. Adjournment at 8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Rachael Shaw, secretary