

## WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 2/27/25 at 7:00 P.M

In person: Westminster West Library

To join by Zoom, contact

[westminstervtconservation@gmail.com](mailto:westminstervtconservation@gmail.com)

1. Call to Order at 7:04 pm. Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Jim Calchera, Kestrel Craig, Rachael Shaw
2. Adjustments to Agenda: none
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 1/23/25 –Jim moved to accept, Tatiana seconded. Minutes accepted by unanimous vote.
4. Communications and Public Comment:
  - a) Email communications -

Tatiana gave a recap of the emails we have been receiving in our gmail account. Of note:

    1. Jim will fill out the long AVCC Town Forest Census and report back at the next meeting.
    2. Kestrel will follow up with BEEC re: awareness of and possibly getting involved with salamander crossings.
    3. Urban and Community Tree Program has a small-scale tree planting grant option. Tatiana made a motion to appoint Jim and Kestrel to a committee to research this opportunity to apply for a grant to possibly plant some trees after removing some buckthorn in the town forest. Rachael seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.
    4. AVCC Small grant opportunity- could apply for this as well and use for signage relating to the tree planting project.
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
  - a) Town Plan –Tatiana spoke with Lachlan Francis who said that their proposed intermediate Town Plan is not acceptable. He said the select board has agreed to hire professional help so they can meet requirements of state and federal law, but that they still plan to incorporate our notes. Tatiana will stay abreast of the process as it moves forward.
  - b) Other programs/projects – follow up –
    1. riparian buffer project- Cory Ross says they are moving ahead with a grant application which is due March 28.

2. Biodiversity Inventory- Cory forwarded our request to Margo Ghia. Tatiana will contact Patty Smith of BEEC to see if she is interested in potentially working with us on this. Jim contacted Jens Hilke and he will respond when he gets back in the office.

3. Town forest planning- plan an event to assess public perspectives on the Town Forest as a resource to residents. We will focus on this at the next meeting for an April event.

c) Recruitment of new members - Kestrel will make a poster for town meeting. Rachael will mention it in the tracking article.

6. New Business:

a) Report back from tracking workshop - A successful event with eleven people attending. We saw tracks and sign/scat of vole, squirrel, fox, coyote, bobcat, porcupine, deer, raven, and bluejay. Rachael will write an article about the program, and mention recruitment.

b) Road salt use in Westminster – has it gotten higher lately? Kestrel will reach out to Chuck Lawrence, former road foreman, to learn more about this. We will all do some research on the effects of road salt in preparation for a future meeting with town road crew to discuss current road salt use and options.

c) Bird flu concerns - Tatiana will write an educational article about bird flu. The situation is that bird flu jumps from wild waterbirds to domestic poultry. Residents should not be attracting waterbirds such as ducks and geese to feed where they could spread the flu to each other and other birds/animals.

d) Rockingham CC liaison - Rachael will read their minutes and report back. Jim will attend their Monday March 10 meeting if it's in person.

7. Other Business: Next month: Green up day planning

8. Date of Next Meeting: March 27th, 7 pm. Westminster Institute

9. Adjournment. Tatiana made motion to adjourn, Jim seconded. Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Rachael Shaw, secretary