

WESTMINSTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting, Thursday, 3/27/25 at 7:00 P.M

In person: Westminster Institute

To join by Zoom, contact

westminstervtconservation@gmail.com

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm
Present: Tatiana Schreiber, Jim Calchera, Rachael Shaw, Kestrel Craig
2. Adjustments to Agenda: Add to new business 6.c. Potential birding event.
3. Acceptance of Minutes: 1/23/25 – 5 min. Tatiana made a motion to accept minutes, Kestrel seconded. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.
4. Communications and Public Comment:
 - a) Email communications -
 - i. Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Conference -12 workshops
Thursday, May 29, 2025 (register at link in email on 3/27/25)
8:30am-3:45pm
Vermont State University – Randolph Campus
 - ii. Vermont Energy and Climate Action (VECAN): Webinar on Vermont Climate Action Plan. recording available in email from VCAN on 3/27/25. Climate Action Plan public feedback session April 23 at Library - 5:30 – 7:30. They seem to want people to register, but you can probably just show up.
 - iii. Coming right up: Vermont Woodlands Conference Saturday, April 12, 2025 (See AVCC email 3/6) Judd Hall, Vermont State University, Randolph, VT
5. Unfinished Business (Discussion / Action) –
 - a) Town Plan – Tatiana had a phone conversation with Lachlan Francis, and stressed that the WCC would like to have input on the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan, as well as help with any resident surveys needed, as it moves forward (with paid assistance from consultants.) We will take the Town Plan off the agenda for the immediate future, until there is more actual planning commission activity.
 - b) Other programs/projects – follow up –

1. riparian buffer project - March 28 grant deadline was not met but Cory Ross said that there was another grant deadline in a couple weeks.

2. Biodiversity Inventory - Patty said she wouldn't have time, but had someone else to recommend. Cory and Margo both have grant funding ideas for this project. Tatiana will look into the grants/deadlines and see if we want to move forward with that.

3. Town forest planning— Education event to share about our town forest, do a presentation, history of it, size and location, features, and request feedback and info from participants. How best to use/enjoy the forest? It would be good to have some photos/slides to share. Plan an event for June/July. Could plan for it at our next meeting. Jim has been learning more as he completes very long survey.

c) Tree planting grant application/s - no progress was made on grant application for tree planting at Town Forest. Discussion regarding need for Selectboard approval of a grant application prior to submittal to the grant supplier. Could still happen but we may need to schedule a special meeting (possibly April 14) to approve a grant proposal. Jim will get back to Tatiana re: scheduling a meeting.

d) Report Back Rockingham meeting minutes - minutes not received by our gmail account.

6. New Business:

a) Green Up Day Planning - Saturday May 3, Kestrel will text Sarah Waldo and ask about contact people and ask if she's willing to help with the event. Rachael will help organize it.

b) Ephemeral wildflower walk planning – April 26, rain date April 27. 10-12 noon. Rachael will write an article for the Gazette.

c) Birding event at Sevca/Henwood Hill site? Tatiana will contact Vic Baisley and Cory Ross and ask where, when and what time would be best for a birding event, possibly late May or early June?

7. Other Business:

Had a brief discussion about road salt. All do some research on road salt, any viable alternatives? Invite the road crew to our May meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting: April 24th, Westminster West Library, 7 pm

9. Adjournment at 8:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Rachael Shaw, Secretary