

Wentworth Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting

December 6, 2022

Place: Wentworth Town Office
Time: 10:04 AM
Present: Tuula Pihlajavesi, Vice Chair
Ilse “Izzy” Mercier, Secretary
Birgitte “Deda” Wilms, Member

- * Vice Chair T. Pihlajavesi called the meeting to order at 10:00.
- * Minutes of 11/1/2022 approved by I. Mercier and seconded by B. Wilms.
- * Recreational Trail Network & Management Plan. AMC Trail Developer Alex DeLucia submitted a first draft. An initial review of the document was done. Items for further discussion from the initial review are identifying and prioritizing project stages, effect of parking lot on town land vs Town Forest, process for naming trails, and networking with other local organizations.
- * Preparation of Annual Report. With several years of inactivity WCC members discussed the importance of emphasizing that the group is back in action, has developed a mission statement, walked the Plummer/Van Deusen land with Jordan King of Hooper Hill Forestry that developed the 2018 Forest Stewardship Plan for the Wentworth Town Forests, and is working with the Pemi Baker Land Trust to place the Town Forest parcels in a conservation easement. In anticipation of fundraising, grants, gifts and donations, the WCC is researching the requirements to obtain a 501(C) (3), Under the guidance of the Baker River Watershed Association, we will be participating in water sampling training as WCC will be taking that responsibility over in Spring of 2023. We are attending most select board meetings to keep them updated on the commission’s progress. In addition, we are researching the possible sale of the Dorchester Road land that the town acquired for back taxes to fund the conservation easement for the Town Forest, as well as the trail project and return this land to the town tax payroll. We are also working with the AMC on a recreational trail network and management plan.

* Proposed Town Warrants for 2023 Revised. After discussion the Conservation Fund article and Land Use Change Tax article were approved by I. Mercier and B. Wilms. It was felt that the Conservation Appropriation and Forest Maintenance Appropriation articles needed more review.

* Pemi-Baker Land Trust Conservation Easement review. Due to time restraints this discussion item will appear on the next agenda.

* Dorchester Road parcel sale. The sale of this property is more complicated than initially thought. L. Brownson spoke with the town attorney, Shawn Tanguay, for further information on how to proceed with this sale. A possibility may be, where the town acquired it for unpaid taxes, that they sell it by sealed bid. Research will continue on the best way to have a clean, quick sale.

* George DeWolf's review of adding comments to Google Docs was found to be helpful.

* Social Media Report. Introductions of WCC members will be placed on the Face Book Wentworth Bulletin page by T. Pihlajavesi monthly leading up to the Town Meeting.

* Observations in Nature. Turkeys seem to be in abundance in the area. Several have seen deer and expect to see more as rifle hunting season ends in a few days.

* No other business or visitor comments

* Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Minutes submitted 12/11/2022 by I. Mercier.