

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – November 26, 2018

Present: Marc Pramuk (chair), Debbie Scranton, Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Pat Stone, Jill Burkett
Guests: Fred and Jane Campbell

Called to order @ 6:35 October 22, 2018 minutes approved

Municipal Water Pipes on Otter Creek impacting canoeing/kayaking

Fred and Jane Campbell were the only interested parties to come to the meeting, as they receive their water from these pipes, and have gone 6+/- weeks without water during winter months since the pipes were moved 3-4 years ago, and are above the water line and freeze. Chris Hayes told Ralph the pipes need to be 4.5' below surface to not freeze. It is still unsure who moved the pipes, who is responsible, and if Fire District rules changed. WCC still interested in pursuing this, possibly when more information as to the pipes is made available, apply for grants from non-profits or the state for money to restore.

Forest Management Plan

Steve Hagenbuch (VT Audubon, conservationist, forester) has completed the October, 2018, Forest Bird Habitat Assessment with recommendations for protecting and improving habitat for a suite of priority forest birds, including maintaining current meadows and mature forests, and managing non-native invasive species.

Stone Meadow Update

We discussed the biking obstacles and jumps put in by Wallingford youth on a long forgotten, and unknown to the WCC, trail, which intersected the WCC trails causing concern about safety and lack of prior approval, as brought up at the November 5 Selectboard meeting.

The Selectboard instructed the children to put up signs in both directions to notify WCC trail users, and for the WCC and the Recreation Comm. to meet in the spring on-site to discuss possible moving of trails, and trails for bike jumps. The WCC has never addressed bike usage at Stone Meadow.

Marc also got some standard bike rules from both Pine Hill in Rutland and the International Bike Assoc. Other areas of town-owned land might also be considered for bike trail usage. The Selectboard's sign at Stone Meadow is damaged, and a new sign needed. Marc suggested wording for a new sign to be brought before the next Selectboard meeting.

Bee project:

We checked the hives at our last work day, and all three colonies are active, and have been winterized.

Trail/River Access behind the Fire Station, frontage on Otter Creek, Roaring Brook

We walked the Kevin Brown property on our Work Day, at the suggestion of a citizen thinking it would be good for recreation (swimming, fishing), and contiguous to town property. This 2.8 acres has no access, surrounded by Otter Creek, Roaring Brook, the Railroad, private property, with future access possible by a pedestrian bridge. It is assessed by the town for \$3700, owners offering for more. We decided this land is more for recreation use than conservation use, and not something we should think of doing, the town having plenty of recreation land and river frontage.

Budget:

Of our \$3000 budget, we've spent \$1081.10, with \$2082 left. Donations from VSC for Marc's Volunteerism is \$1420, plus \$380 on the way, for a total of \$3882+/- . We plan to expend \$1000 (three bee colonies \$450, printing brochures \$250, Fun Day \$150, 5K race \$150). We have \$2800 available which we might want to put in a reserve fund, which would need future approval from Selectboard, or a town meeting ballot.

New Business:

There will be a 5K Memorial Day race, partially on Waldo Lane, and perhaps we can help with providing water, event at the Pavilion, July 20 Wallingford Days participation. Carol will send draft of WCC for town report, due Dec. 15. Wood chips for trails are free from True Temper.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM, Next meeting is Monday, January 28, 2019, at 6:30 at Town Hall

Submitted by Debbie Scranton