

## WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2018

Present: Marc Pramuk (chair), Debbie Scranton, Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Jill Burkett

Guests: None

Called to order @ 6:37 September 24, 2018 minutes approved

### **Bee project:**

There appears to be three colonies, with only one doing well with lots of honey and a brood. On our next work day, the main hive will be winterized, wood mouse guards installed, with the other hives to have felt/tar paper installed at a later date.

### **Forest Management Plan**

Steve Hagenbuch (VT Audubon, conservationist, forester) is overcommitted and under-staffed, but we are on the list for his written Habitat Assessment report.

### **Stone Meadow Update**

Marc has cleared a downed tree on a trail, trash needs pick-up, and new brochure holders installed and filled.

An old trail in the southeast corner of Stone Meadow, not in use in the WCC trail system, with fallen trees left in place to discourage use from the boys' camp road, has been cleared with newly made jumps and a ramp for bikes which intersects with the WCC's Rim Trail. We notified the Selectboard to see if they had been approached about building this on town land. Gary Fredette said that he would check it out, and we will go there on our work day. Everything the WCC has done in Stone Meadow has had to be done with town approval, from bee hives (also needing state approval) to planting a bee flower garden, fencing, etc. always with town liability a main concern.

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

We were told that property owned by Kevin Brown (2.8 acres per tax map) is vacant land currently for sale (not listed in MLS). We will walk this property on our work day to see if this might be feasible for the town to develop as it is contiguous to the recreation area, and may be suitable for improvement for fishing, swimming, picnicking.

### **Water Pipes on Otter Creek impacting canoeing/kayaking**

Ralph has attended a road commission meeting and spoken to relevant parties about the two waterlines, with no one able to confirm which one is in use to supply water to property owners on the west side of Otter Creek. These pipes block boat passage with no good portage around them. Ralph would be willing to work on grants to lower the pipes, with concrete to keep pipes in place. One user said the pipes froze last winter. Carol will contact the property owners who use the pipes, the town administrator, and the person who runs the water system.

### **Budget:**

We currently have \$1000 left, plus \$420 in VCS volunteer donations thanks to Marc. We spent \$1984.78 (mostly on the shed, plexiglass, brochures, string trimmer, bees). The budget is due on November 19, and we will ask for \$2000, which will cover 3 colonies of bees, membership to AVCC, replacement of 2 trees, equipment and surplus, Cabin Fever Fun Day in February, brochures, bee supplies.

### **New Business:**

There will be a 5K Memorial Day race, partially on Waldo Lane, and perhaps we can help with providing water, etc.

**WORK DAY Sunday, October 28** To check out bees and insulate, to walk the Brown Property behind the fire station, to walk the Rim Walk to see the discontinued trail with mountain bike jumps

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM

Next meeting is Monday, November 26, at 6:30 at Town Hall

Submitted by Debbie Scranton