

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes – June 22, 2020

Present: Carol Macleod (chair), Debbie Scranton, Ralph Nimitz, Jane Quigley

Guests: Shannon Pytlik, Monica Delorme, Dana Jones, three bicyclist boys (Ryan, Toby, Rocco)

Called to order @ 6:35PM, April 27, 2020 minutes approved of Zoom meeting

Annual Reorganization and nomination/election of officers

Co-Chair Persons – Carol Macleod and Ralph Nimitz (No Vice-Chair position necessary)

Secretary – Debbie Scranton

Treasurer - Carol Macleod

The WCC deeply regrets the resignation of the Chair, Marc Pramuk, and thanks him for His tireless work for the betterment of our community.

There are now three openings on the commission. All (including teenagers) are encouraged to submit a letter of Interest to the commission, and to the Selectboard for appointment.

Bike Trails with Jumps/Obstacles

All biking and other non-motorized vehicles have always been allowed and encouraged to Use the trail system at Stone Meadow.

The survey that the Selectboard requested was compiled, and distributed in the last town Newsletter that was mailed town-wide. To encourage participation, prizes were Offered to those respondents giving their name and contact information. As of today, There were 50 responses, with an additional day remaining. This fell well short of the Questionnaire for the newsletter (189 respondents) that was planned by the Events Committee to coincide with Town Meeting. We thank in advance Erica Berner for offering to collate and put Together the results in a statistically meaningful way. This data will be given to the Selectboard.

WCC will ask the Selectboard if we can have a public input event to discuss future recreation needs/wants by the Greater Wallingford community.

Carol Macleod handed out information to the WCC and guests, regarding the results of meeting with a Member of the Pine Hill Park (Rutland) to discuss potential safety issues. None were noted, other Than taking down 1+ small trees/branches, and putting up signage that pedestrians have the right-of-way and to be aware of the presence of bikers on jumps. A separate trail from the hill to David Klock's Bench could be an easy alternative for pedestrians, if maintained by mowing by the WCC. Carol and Ralph have made the first mowing of the path. Suggested that bikers use this mowed trail for only about a Month to help pack down the soil, and then no longer use it, leaving it for pedestrian use.

A vote was taken and approved unanimously by the WCC to recommend to the Selectboard that the Bike Jumps be opened for use, dependent upon Covid-19 guidelines. The WCC suggests that the Selectboard may want to contact VLCT to determine if there is any potential liability problem and to determine if additional liability insurance is required if the Selectboard approves the reopening of the Bike Jumps. The WCC would also recommend to the Selectboard that additional restrictions would apply to the Bike Jumps: Pedestrians on all WCC trails have the right-of-way, WCC would require that there be no creation of new jumps or resurrection of old jumps without the WCC's and Selectboard's approval. Repairs and maintenance to currently existing resurrected trails would be allowed. We made no further suggestions, and will leave it to the Selectboard to address any other issues, like the wearing of protective helmets.

The attending guests were encouraged to come up with a concrete plan for future jumps or obstacles To present to the Selectboard for their approval.

Guests said that signs regarding bike usage, posted by the entry from Waldo, had been removed twice. WCC Had nothing to do with their removal.

Riparian Improvements at the Recreation Field as submitted by Steve Pytlik

Per Shannon Pytlik, this project is no longer being considered by Steve Pytlik.

Updates/Next Steps at Stone Meadow

A Work Date has been scheduled for Sunday, June 28 at 9:00 AM. There will be a walk-through of Stone Meadow and Elfin Lake to list and prioritize future work that needs to be done, say in mowing trails, snipping vines, clearing fallen trails, weeding of the rain garden, invasive control, etc.

Based upon an Audubon plan, the copse of trees was cleared at literally one fell, rather than a three year Sequence of clearing for wildlife habitat improvement. The WCC plans to have the area regrow on its

Own without further cleanup of debris.

Carol and Jane spread hard-pack for the Beach Trail

Ralph will contact Marc Pramuk for the replacement of the canoe launch sign by the Otter Creek.

We have two receptacles at the main trail area on Waldo Lane for recyclables and for dog poop bags.

In this time of Covid-19, people using the trails and closed Elfin Beach, have been leaving their

Garbage at this small area. Ralph and Carol and have taken the garbage to the

Transfer Station. We either need to divvy up this garbage duty to WCC members

Or to enlist the town Selectboard to this growing problem.

Bees

We did not buy bees this year, complicated by previous die-offs, Covid-9, and

The resignation of our beekeeper member, Marc Pramuk.

Replacement of the bees will be deferred to next year, but the maintenance of

The hive area will be evaluated on our next Work Day.

Budget:

There is \$3685 in the Community Bank account, which was funded by donations

From the Vermont Country Store from the numerous community hours put into

Stone Meadow by Marc Pramuk.

As of July 1, 2020, our new funds from the Town of Wallingford will be \$2500. We did

Not have time to discuss allocations for our upcoming budget.

Joint Meetings with the Recreation Committee

We are scheduled to meet with the Rec Committee on July 7 to discuss survey results.

The Rec Committee is invited to meet with us on July 27 to discuss new bike trails.

Children's StoryBook Adventure Trail at Stone Meadow

Some posts for the signage have been put in place. The story will be 'The Lorax'.

New Business:

WCC member, Pat Stone, has job conflicts with Monday night meetings. WCC is happy

To accommodate Pat. Perhaps a Tuesday night would be better.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM. Next meeting is fourth week in July, exact date, time, and place to be announced.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton