

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – July 27, 2020

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

Pat Stone resigned from the Commission via email on July 23. We thank Pat for her service and work To Stone Meadow, and enjoyed working with her.

Guests: Trish Nash (Chair of Recreation), Kate Wanner and Betsy McGean (via phone conference)

Called to order @ 6:45PM, June 22, 2020 minutes approved, Roll Call taken. No additions or deletions to Agenda

Meeting guest, Kate Wanner (Trust for Public Land) and Betsy McGean (Director of Philantropy), on Gateway to White Rocks acquisition from Fernfield Farms (Ice Bed, Hartsboro Roads)

Currently 464 acres under contract to the Green Mountain Forest, supported by the Selectboard

And visitors last year. This is 16th in the country from 2020-2021 funding by 10/21/2020 which

Might be delayed. But last week, the House and Senate passed the Great American Outdoor Act

Which will have full funding every year. Therefore the funds will be available for the acquisition.

White Rocks and Green Mountain National Forest will have fully accessible trails through old growth forest,

Whereas currently there are none. They called it a perfect property, with existing trails and relatively

Flat terrain, and we were encouraged to walk it. Bike paths might be extended by the White Rocks

Outdoor Collaborative, with enough money for maintenance and management.

We spoke about connectivity with the village of Wallingford, currently none official, with only access at end

Of Ice Bed Road. T. Nash knew of a connection from Church Street, through the cemetery though

The L. Woods development (Gilbert Hart Lane) which might be pursued.

Betsy McGean et al. is coming August 13 to view the project and talk about raising of public funds. Much of

The \$1,000,000 needed will be from public funds and foundations, but 20% of the money needs to be

raised privately, and we were asked to participate in raising private money. We should walk the trails

together, see the location of a future parking area. B.. McGlean will come up with a job description for the

Fund-raising Committee, and C. Macleod will put this in the local newsletter.

Bike Trails with Jumps/Obstacles _ Meeting with VLCT on July 2, 2020

C. Macleod and R. Nimtz (none from Recreation) met with Wade Masure, joined by town administrator,

Sandi Switzer. W. Masure is from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and said he was surprised

To see jumps in the woods as they are usually in open areas. He said that they didn't appear to be

Particularly dangerous, although we await his report. At this inspection, a biker was going exceptionally

Fast on the Rim Trail. Masure thought expanding jumps/obstacles to the south was the best option, to

Avoid more contact with pedestrian trails, which T. Nash noted were only designed for walking.

Updates/Next Steps at Stone Meadow

A Work Date was on Sunday, June 28 at 9:00 AM. There was a walk-through of Stone Meadow and Elfin

Lake to list and prioritize future work that needs to be done, say in mowing trails. Some trails were weed

Whacked and the rain garden weeded. C. Macleod and R. Nimtz have pulled poison parsnip. A new Work

Date has not been set.

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. One plan would be to have the area re-grow

And reclaim itself naturally over time. Other options would be to rent a chipper at \$280 a day, move

Tree debris to the work construction hole 8-10' deep and let the trees decompose there.

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. This continues to be a major problem and we should ask the Selectboard

To remove garbage as T. Nash says the town removes trash at the recreation area.

Budget:

There is \$3685 in CDs 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 are \$2500.

Joint Meeting with the Recreation Committee

We had a joint meeting with the Rec Committee on July 7 to discuss survey results. The Selectboard suggested

Merging the two, and we have very different functions, but should work closely together in the future,

especially as we both are in need of new members. Likely we will continue this conversation.

Children's Story Book Adventure Trail at Stone Meadow

'The Lorax' is in place along the Rim Trail beginning at the south side of the parking lot on Waldo Lane.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Next meeting is August 24 at 6:30 at Town Hall. Masks required.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton **Approved: 08/24/20**