

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2020

Present: Carol Macleod (chair), Ralph Nimitz (co-chair), Jane Quigley (briefly), Debbie Scranton, Jill Burkett

Guests: None

Called to order at 7:06 PM quite late as D. Scranton could not get on the Zoom as the passcode number changed from 6:15 September 28, 2020 minutes approved as written, Roll Call taken. No additions or deletions to Agenda

Gateway to White Rocks acquisition from Fernfield Farms (Ice Bed, Hartsboro Roads)

Betsy McGean (Director of Philanthropy) and Kate Wanner (Trust for Public Land), plus three Wallingford residents interested in fund-raising: Richard Korchack, Jason Slibeck, Don Glendenning) led a three-hour walk of the White Rocks Gateway land on Thursday, October 8 at 10 AM. C. Macleod and J. Quigley joined the walk.

Federal government has approved the purchase, but \$180,000 must be raised from private sources. WCC members reported the terrain really nice, with an ADA trail possible. Bike trails were brought up by WCC, which might be considered when and if they can afford to do that. It is still problematic on a safe Way for riders to get to this area safely from the village. There is a mowed grassy parking area now by 1372 Hartsboro Road for walking, etc.

Stone Meadow

Shannon Pytlik asked if Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator, could make available copies of the survey at the September meeting. The March survey was on recreation in general in town, and Stone Meadow in particular. D. Scranton ran off copies and dropped them at the Town Hall.

S. Pytlik had an alternative place in the northwest corner, and C. Macleod re-iterated the southeast portion of Stone Meadow that would not cross any existing paths. S. Pytlik and C. Macleod agreed to meet to walk both of these possible areas at the September meeting. C. Macleod has not been contacted By S. Pytlik.

Discussed was new permanent signage. There will be two new large signs by each kiosk, changed mostly by the Selectboard’s bike policy restricting bikes only to the main beach trail. There will be three 8” x 12” permanent bike signs similar to the temporary ones from the road crew. Brochure new verbiage will be deferred to a later date, as brochures are not available due to Covid-19.

We discussed the need to have a work day to evaluate the downed trees in the copse as the vegetation Has died back. This will not be a one-day job. We could go in with string trimmers and cut up smaller Limbs, particularly on the exterior and the walkway. John McClellan will join us after hunting ends on Nov. 29. We could also put up a notice on Front Porch Forum that there may be larger pieces suitable For drying for firewood available to the public.

One of the bee hives has been very active this summer. We have not harvested honey for sale in the Town office as in previous years as our member who cared for the bees has resigned. Another member has expressed interest for next year, so we will need to evaluate the state of the hives for planning, and will ask a couple of knowledgeable residents to join us on our work day for their advice.

Budget:

Our new funds from the Town of Wallingford are \$2500, with no expenses thus far. We also have \$3680.66 from Vermont Country Store for Marc Pramuk’s volunteerism at Stone Meadow.

We will submit our budget at the November 16 Selectboard ZOOM meeting for July, 2021 to June 2022. Here are anticipated expenses and our request for funds, lowered from our current level.

Reprint Stone Meadow and Wallingford Walks brochures	\$ 400
Association of VT Conservation Commissions	50
Stone Meadow Activities	
Run/Walk May 2022	100
Wallingford Fun Day July 2021	200
Winter Fun Day February 2022	200
Bees	
Purchase of two colonies, April 2022	350
Bee supplies and materials	200
Other Stone Meadow Expenses	
Mowing Sept/Oct 2021	200
Tree/flower planting, and soil near Waldo entrance	100
Gas and supplies for trimmer	30
New signs for tree identification	<u>200</u>
Total Requested Amount	\$1830

New Business: Len and Mary Ann Cadwallader will donate and deliver a picnic table. We are thinking

The canoe launch area would be a good spot, and will can create a raised area there for the table next Spring. They have also offered to donate a grill, but the sign says 'No Open Fires". We should certainly all sign and send Them a card for their generosity.

Work Meeting Sunday, November 1, 10:00 to check on the bee and hive situation, and to evaluate work to be done To clear up the exterior and trail in the copse of downed trees done for the Audubon plan.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Next meeting is Monday, November 23, at 6:30 at Town Hall. Masks required. Or by Zoom, depending on the Covid-19 circumstances.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton