

## WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Draft Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2021

Present: Carol Macleod (co-chair), Ralph Nimitz (co-chair), Debbie Scranton  
Guests: Nick Bresinsky, Rodney Ward (arrived late to meeting), Shannon Pytlik  
Called to order at 6:38 PM via Zoom  
October 26, 2020 minutes approved as written, Roll Call taken. No additions or deletions to Agenda

### **Welcome to Potential New Members**

Nick Bresinsky lives on Hartsboro Road, near the Gateway to White Rocks, winters in Vermont, Summers in Maine but could Zoom for meetings. He is interested in contributing to his new Community, enjoys outdoor recreation, and is encouraged about the Gateway project and Our stewardship of the land.

The WCC gave a background of our typical work and activities throughout the year.

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

Federal government has approved the purchase, but \$180,000 needed to be raised from private sources. C. Macleod has not been recently contacted, but, as of the end of December, \$111,000 had been Secured from other sources, so less will be needed locally. Grants for recreational trails would be two Years away, with nothing that can be done now.

Bike trails or pedestrian trails at the area would be good if they could be accessed safely from the village, other than by car. R. Nimitz suggested finding out the ownership of land between Timber Hill Estates Subdivision, to the end of Green Hill Lane, which connects to Hartsboro Road.

### **Stone Meadow**

One of the bee hives had been very active this summer, and is now covered for winter. Jane Quigley and Marc Pramuk will be designated in charge of the hives, and money has been allocated in our up-coming Budget for new colonies and supplies.

We evaluated the clean-up of the copse at our last work day on November 1. M. Pramuk had made several neatly stacked piles, which will be good for wildlife. We will re-evaluate on a spring work day, and May decide to clear the second path.

Possible uses for donations from the Vermont Country Store for M. Pramuk's volunteerism will be Discussed more at future meetings. Possibilities include a small pavilion on Waldo Lane with a plaque, Endowment for Stone Meadow in M. Pramuk's name.

Possibility of recreational land located behind the Fire Station. Land is overgrown with invasives, lies Within the Flood Plain. No legal access across the railroad tracks once the former mobile home was removed. Access from Route 140 would necessitate a bridge over the Roaring Brook. S. Pytlik said that it Would be suitable for public funding from the Vermont River Conservancy, abuts the town's recreation area on the other side of the Route 140 bridge, and has old sluiceways, two swimming holes, suitable for fishing with easy river access. An appraisal of the land would be needed which could be shared with the Vermont Housing Conservancy Board. D. Scranton will first call the owners to see if the property is still offered for sale and at what price. (Current town assessment is \$3700). At our next meeting, we can then determine what action will be taken. The Recreation Committee might be then contacted.

### **Welcome to Potential New Members**

Rodney Ward joined the meeting at 7:30, and is interested in becoming a member. He is active, enjoys the Outdoors, is interested in Stone Meadow and the Fernfield Farms project. He lives on Hillside Road, has Been a GE volunteer working on the trails at Pine Hill Park in Rutland, and the Wallingford's playground in 2005.

Both N. Bresinsky and R. Ward were asked if they wanted their names to be put forward to the Selectboard to be appointed to the WCC, and the answer was affirmative which the WCC will discuss In executive session.

### **Budget:**

Our new funds from the Town of Wallingford are \$1830 as we had requested, lower than the usual \$2500. The only expenses thus far as \$78 for plantings for May pick-up from the Department of Agriculture, annual membership to the AVCC for \$50, and \$300 in signage at Stone Meadow.. We also have \$3680.66 from Vermont Country Store for Marc Pramuk's volunteerism at Stone Meadow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. Next meeting is Monday, February 22,, at 6:30 at Town Hall. Masks required. Or by Zoom, depending on the Covid-19 circumstances.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton