

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Approved Meeting Minutes – April 25, 2022

Present: Tom Fort (co-chair), Debbie Scranton (co-chair, taking minutes), Rodney Ward, Ralph Nimtz, Jane Quigley, Carol Macleod, Dennis Duhaine

Guest(s): Morgan Over

Called to order at 6:34

March 28, 2022 minutes approved as written, Roll Call taken. No additions or deletions to Agenda

Rules/Purposes/History of the WCC Written summary distributed to all present from D. Scranton, only remaining Original member from 2003-4, with overall mission similar to other area conservation commissions.

WCC Strategic Planning Process based on AVCC Webinar T. Fort

Ideas and interests of members will be captured during a brainstorming session at the May WCC meeting. The output will then be assessed and used to develop near and longer term plans. The following steps will be implemented over the coming months:

1. Brainstorming on what we should be focusing on
2. Capacity Assessment
3. Prioritization by a rating system
4. Developing a work plan (time frame and expenses)

Green-Up Day – Saturday, May 7, 8 AM to Noon at the Gilbert Hart Library

Members (D. Duhaine, R. Nimtz, C. Macleod, T. Fort, others) to be at the table at the front lawn to register volunteers and distribute bags. D. Duhaine will bring table, D. Scranton will provide an open tent, C. Macleod will bring bags and Green-Up Day literature from the state.

Stone Meadow

Trail Assessment lead by Andrew Bentley from Ribbon Trails & Property on April 11, 2022

D. Bentley gave us a very thorough inventory of our main trails, including the two staircases, and what the WCC could do this year, and what improvements could be made in the future, including more extensive work that may need grant monies. T. Fort took detailed and extensive notes. Some of this recommended work will be incorporated into this year's work days.

Bees J. Quigley reports one of the bee hives has been lost, and that local bee authority K. Mullin will be meeting with J. Quigley next week.

Prioritization Things we can do for safety on work days or on our own include taking small stumps to the ground, taking out roots that are slippery or a tripping hazard. Removal of bike jumps crossing Rim Trail that have been uncovered and rebuilt and according to D. Bentley present a danger to the Bikers and to pedestrians and need to be fully removed. (D. Scranton and C. Macleod went to Town administrator after trail walk, and were told to make and put up new temporary signage and ribbons warning that the biking jumps were not allowed and dangerous.) Both D. Scranton and C. Macleod walked the Rim Trail separately on April 23 and 24, and noted that the signs were gone, and the bike jumps had been partially disabled. Guest M. Over acknowledged that it was she who had disabled the bike jumps after attending the Selectboard meeting where the Selectboard determined that the jumps would be removed by Phil Baker or other town employees. The further dismantlement of the jumps will be determined by the town. We discussed the need for further signage as the ADA trail is not compliant and we needed new wording. Suggestions were "Gentle Incline" or similar, and also to have signage saying that there was 24 hour camera surveillance posted at the parking area on Waldo Lane. Guest M. Over offered to create this signage from The Mint in Rutland.

AVCC Tiny Grant written by T. Fort, should know if we got it by May 17.

Selectboard Meeting of April 18, 2022 on Bike Jumps As noted above, Selectboard determined that the jumps must be completely removed, and for the WCC to contact Phil Baker.

Budget

After paying the Ribbon Trails bill of \$450, we have \$46 remaining. Our new budget allotment is on July 1, 2022, and we also have access to Marc Pramuc's CD from volunteer work at Stone Meadow.

Elfin Lake Erosion Funding Options WCC did not receive the grant for preliminary work, but there will be other grants coming up to help deal with the erosion at the lake.

NEXT WORK DAY IS WEDNESDAY, MAY 4 AT 4:00. We will also walk Outer Limits with M. Over to hear her ideas for improvements to the multi-use trails with more interesting terrain for bike use. Bring rakes, nipper Snippers, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM. Next meeting is Monday, May 23, at 6:30 at Town Hall.

Submitted by Debbie Scranton