

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2023

Call to Order, Roll Call and Guest introductions 4:35
Present: Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Debbie Scranton, Jane Quigley, Dennis Duhaime, Tom Fort. Guests: Denise Eddy

Approval of April 24, 2023 WCC Minutes 4:36

WCC Communications Guidelines 4:37

Broadcast emails from the WCC will be limited to meeting agendas and minutes. Occasionally, logistics for group activities could also be coordinated via broadcast email but only if the activity was already determined and aligned upon in a prior meeting.

WCC Mission Statement 4:45

The WCC adopted the following mission statement: “Conserve local natural resources and promote health of the broader environment.”

The WCC will develop, maintain, and execute a plan (Wallingford Environmental Conservation Plan) to serve as a guideline for prioritizing WCC activity. The mission statement and supporting plan will focus on two key categories: 1) Conservation of defined natural resources (land and water) within Wallingford and 2) Support of the broader environment (beyond Wallingford’s defined natural resources).

Green Up Day Debrief and ideas for improvement 5:05

It was suggested that the WCC might buy merchandise (t-shirts, travel mugs) from Vermont Green Up and give raffle tickets out with bags. Those who turn in their bags to the Transfer Station would be eligible for the drawings. Hiding painted rocks was suggested as another approach to encourage public participation. Those who find the rocks would receive a corresponding prize.

It was suggested that bags could be available at Town Hall the week before Green Up Day rather than having the public contact Carol directly if they will not be available to pick up their bags on Saturday morning. WCC would confer with and gain permission from Town Hall associates prior to implementing this potential option next year.

A second clean up day was suggested for October. Rather than enlisting the entire town, the WCC would identify and focus on specific target areas that need cleaning. Bags would be provided by WCC rather than the state-wide program and participation would be primarily through WCC members but could also include public participation. The public could also be queried through FPF and/or newsletter on what areas they believe need attention.

It was suggested that “No Litter Signs” employing both “carrot and stick” approach could be utilized in areas that seem to have particularly high litter problems.

Transfer Station Meeting Follow-up 5:20

The expanded Give-N-Take area could prove difficult for the limited Transfer Station staff to manage given the usually heavy load of punching cards and monitoring recycling (especially on Saturdays).

Therefore, the current Give-N-Take process will remain rather than expanding it at this time. The RCSW grant for surveillance equipment to monitor Give-N-Take area will not be pursued and the Transfer Station Management Plan Amendment will be limited to addition of the Trex plastic film recycling.

The sole Trex plastic film drop off location (Price Chopper) has communicated that they can no longer accept the large drop-offs of plastic that we have been delivering due to their limited storage area. Tom will ask RCSW to become a collection site for the program. In the meantime, all WCC members will assist with the delivery of small loads (1-2 bags) of plastic to Price Chopper in order to spread the recycling out and hopefully put less stress on the system at Price Chopper. Weight of the plastic delivered will be emailed to Tom, who will continue to maintain a log and submit it on a monthly basis via the Trex online portal.

Fence cover was put up on the North gate at the Transfer Station on 5/21. The cover did not block as much as expected. Ralph will look into alternatives.

Stone Meadow Park

5:40

The AVCC Tiny Grant was not approved.

New bees were received and are settling in nicely. No collection of honey until next year.

Routine maintenance work at Stone Meadow will be conducted as needed by each WCC member. If a member sees work that needs to be done but they are not able to carry it out, they will contact the appropriate member(s).

It was determined that the meadow will be mowed once per year rather than once every 3 years (cost of \$200-\$400 per year). Jane will experiment with mowing a small section of the meadow 2x per year to see the effect of biannual mowing on the prevalence of native vs. invasive plants.

Pollinator Garden – Workday on Saturday 5/27. Denise Eddy suggested a raffle to support pollinator garden costs. Denise will clarify costs with Moriah Cutro-Kelly and follow up with town reps regarding logistics of conducting a public raffle. The WCC cannot raise funds through raffle.

Elfin Lake Public Meeting Debrief

6:00

A meeting was held with Fitzgerald Associates. Conceptual drawings for 3 different areas of the park were explained and discussed. Unfortunately, only 12 people participated and ranked their choices. Fitzgerald Associates will be providing results of the public input and revised concepts in the near future.

Budget

6:10

Budget remaining \$121.00, Donation \$125, Honey Sales \$635, CD \$2022. Non-CD funds are \$981. Things we need to purchase: Supplies to fix steps on Bog Trail (estimated cost \$230), Jane and Carol need new head covers (estimated cost is \$250), wheelbarrow (estimated cost \$130), electric weed wacker (estimated cost \$200). The 2023/24 is already set at \$2500.

New business, Old Business - None

6:20

Adjourn

6:20