

Wallingford Conservation Commission Minutes  
Monday, Aug 28, 2023  
Approved Sept 25, 2023

Call to Order, Roll Call and Guest Introductions 4:30

- Present: Dennis Duhaime, Tom Fort, Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Jane Quigley, Debbie Scranton

Approval of July 24, 2023 WCC Minutes (Approved) 4:35

*Public comments invited after discussion of each agenda topic, and under Old and New Business*

Stone Meadow 4:40

- Tree Planting: 4 Shade trees will be transplanted from inside the meadow to the main trail between the Waldo Lane parking lot and the kiosk. Dennis will acquire 2 estimates for backhoe work needed to dig the holes and dig up the trees for transplanting. If backhoe support cannot be found in time for fall planting, Tom will ask approval for road crew support. Ralph and Dennis will identify and tag trees for transplanting. Tom will provide compost. Regular watering will be needed until trees are established. If this initial limited planting does well, it will serve as feasibility for additional plantings along the currently unshaded trails in an effort to reduce the need for mowing and weed whacking in Stone Meadow.
- New Trail: A new trail was created along Otter Creek near Waldo Lane parking lot. Ralph and Carol will obtain new signs for this trail plus other signs currently needed for Stone Meadow (including caution signs to alert hikers of possible slippery conditions on Bog Trail boardwalk).
- Maintenance: Jane noted that there is a loose board on the Bog Trail boardwalk that needs to be secured. When conditions permit, Dennis will also be working to raise/firm up the boardwalk's support.
- Bees: Jane applied a mite treatment to the bees as a precaution. The new bees are doing well.

Transfer Station 5:00

- Trex Recycling Program: We reached the threshold to acquire another bench. The Commission proposes that this bench go to Mill River High School. Tom will work with Debra Gardner-Baash to identify ways to utilize the bench as a means to raise student awareness of plastic recycling. The next bench (anticipated in Feb) would be placed at the Town Hall and potentially secured to the front step/walk.
- Management Plan Amendment: RCSW determined that the current Transfer Station Management Plan language was broad enough to cover Trex plastic film and Discovery book recycling programs. No updates required.

Targeted Fall Clean Up 5:15

- In addition to the traditional Spring Greenup Day sponsored by the state, the WCC plans to use

targeted site clean-ups each fall to address sites that have particularly heavy litter. The initial sites identified for this year are 2 pull-offs along Wallingford Pond Road. Carol has many extra bags from Greenup Day that could be used. There is also trash at the sites that will need to be transported outside of bags and sorted appropriately at the Transfer Station (eg. plumbing and car parts). Tom will ask the Selectboard's permission for WCC members to deposit trash to the transfer station from this targeted clean-up. Although the public may be interested in helping, the initial fall clean up will be limited to WCC members and the potential expansion to include the public in future years will be discussed/considered after the initial event.

WCC Mission Statement and Conservation Plan 5:30

- The WCC Mission Statement, "Protect Wallingford's land, water, air, and biodiversity", will be submitted to Selectboard for approval in September.
- The supporting Environmental Conservation Plan, including table aligning WCC objectives and actions with our mission, will be an internal WCC working document that will be updated regularly with next steps and distributed to the Commission.

Budget 5:45

- \$2500 in annual budget and \$2023 in CD.

New Business, Old Business 5:50

- Debbie will forward email with AVCC Fall Webinars to the Commission.
- Debbie and Dennis will identify experts to present a public seminar next spring/summer on control of invasives in the environment.

Adjourn 6:00