

Wallingford Conservation Commission Approved Minutes  
Monday, September 25, 2023, 4:30 PM  
Stone Meadow

- Call to Order, Roll Call and Guest Introductions
  - Members Present: Dennis Duhaime, Denise Eddy, Tom Fort, Carol MacLeod, Ralph Nimtz, Jane Quigley, Debbie Scranton
  - Guest Present: Anne Awad
- Minutes of the Aug 28, 2023 WCC Meeting were approved.
- *Public comments invited after discussion of each agenda topic, and under Old and New Business*
  
- Stone Meadow
  - Tree Planting
    - Locust trees appear to be growing very quickly in the meadow. Therefore, the WCC decided to allow the locust trees to grow along the walking paths rather than planting other deciduous trees. Some small trees toward the middle of the meadow will be trimmed back to allow the area to remain meadow.
    - If the Road Crew provides a load of soil, it will be used for various plantings/purposes throughout the park.
    - Application of Urban & Community Forest Grants will not be pursued at this time.
  - New Trail Signs
    - All liked the Otter's Edge Trail sign designed by Ralph. Signs will be ordered from Awesome Graphics.
  - Maintenance
    - Debbie asked VT Ag about mowing frequency of the meadow. They said that mowing is now discouraged and burning is encouraged in many parts of the country. The WCC discussed the possibility of using a controlled burn at Stone Meadow but determined that, although it would likely help the wildflowers, it would not be pursued given the expected impact on the air and wildlife.
    - The meadow will not be mowed this year. Instead, we will monitor how the vegetation changes in order to inform a decision on future mowing frequency.
    - A Stone Meadow workday is planned for Oct 11 at 10AM.
- Transfer Station
  - RCSW Diversion Program Grant
    - Tom spoke with the Outreach Coordinator at Lyndonville Solid Waste, regarding their styrofoam recycling program. Styrofoam is heated to 150C to extract the air and a sausage-like byproduct is extruded and

purchased by an insulation company in Canada. The program would not be feasible at the scale of the Wallingford Transfer Station; however, Tom will follow up with RCSW on opportunities to implement styrofoam recycling at the county level under the RCSW Diversion Program Grant.

- New Trex Bench
  - The Selectboard approved giving the latest Trex bench to Mill River Union High School. The MRU-HS Interact Club will host a dedication ceremony to help raise student awareness on the importance of plastic recycling.
- Targeted Fall Clean Up
  - The inaugural WCC Fall Clean Up is scheduled for Oct. 17 at 10AM. Two pull-off sites along Wallingford Pond Road will be targeted. The initial cleanup will be limited to the WCC. Public participation will be considered for future Fall Clean Ups.
- Elfin Beach Erosion Grant
  - Fitzgerald Associates will be at the Town Hall on Sept 28 at 10AM to review comments on the Elfin Lake beach erosion design plans and discuss next steps.
- WCC Mission Statement and Conservation Plan
  - The WCC Mission Statement was provided to the Selectboard for review. The Conservation Plan will remain an internal WCC working document.
- Budget
  - \$2500 in budget
  - \$2023 in CD
- New Business, Old Business
  - Anne Awad presented a plan to address invasive Japanese knotweed at the corner of Waldo Lane and 140. Next Spring, 3-4 volunteers will cut down the knotweed at its base, cover the area with leaf debris and a tarp or black plastic, which will then be secured with rocks and covered with mulch. The cut knotweed will be dried out to ensure it is dead before composting. The covering can be removed from the area in 5 years.
  - The WCC gave Anne our approval and thanked her for researching and leading this worthwhile effort. She will now seek Selectboard approval.
- Adjourn at 5:50 PM
- Next Meeting
  - Oct 23 at 4:30PM (Stone Meadow weather permitting; Town Hall rain site)