

APPROVED MINUTES, Wallingford Conservation Commission
With one Amendment under Old Business for Honey Sales

Monday, March 25, 2024, 4:30 PM Town Hall (downstairs)

Call to Order at 4:30

Roll Call: Dennis Duhaime, Denise Eddy (co-chair leading mtg), Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimtz, Jane Quigley, Debbie Scranton. Tree Warden, Rob Barker, was our guest.

Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2024

Canopy Grant (Annual)

Tree Warden, Rob Barker, on the tree canopy grant that he used to purchase and plant trees over many of the past 20 years. In 2020, the tree warden work has changed. Lands considered must be municipal (ie: park, recreation, garage, town hall, R.O.W.s on Route 7 (4 rods) and town roads (25' from centerline), etc. Before applying for a Canopy Grant next year, R. Barker said the we need to determine our needs.

First, we should develop a Shade Tree Preservation Plan which will determine : 1) The public spaces; 2) The plan, including maintenance, costs, removal of diseased or hazardous trees; 3) First we need an inventory of existing trees (location, type, size). R. Barker would like to start a committee of 6+/- volunteers to present to the Select-board for approval, with J. Quigley, D. Scranton, D. Eddy volunteering. Inventory would be this year, inspections weather dependent.

Other grants available are for nut and fruit trees, and another for removal of ash trees. R. Barker will remove a broken tree by the picnic table on Otter Creek. Stone Meadow could be eligible for a Town Forest Designation.

Trex Recycling Program (revised 1/2024)

D. Duhaime reported that since March 22, the town has collected 1700 pounds for this program this year, qualifying Wallingford another bench for 2024. The bench has been delivered, and assembled by D. Duhaime and D. Eddy, and will be placed at the town hall.

Casella has a huge initiative by 2030 for more community outreach. D. Eddy personally (not on behalf of WCC) wrote a letter to the head of recycling at Casella encouraging them to participate in the NextTrex Recycling Program but has had no response. D. Eddy will reach out to someone else at Casella, which would need a compactor to be a drop-off for the plastics. If Casella picked up from Wallingford, the program could be expanded to many neighboring interested communities.

Invasive Plants - Public Outreach

D. Duhaime spearheaded getting Lars Lund of the Agency of Natural Resources into having this hands-on program on invasives at Stone Meadow on May 18 (same day as library plant sale) from 10-12. L. Lund will do a walk through a couple of days earlier for an inventory, and will bring invasive samples if needed. D. Eddy can provide additional samples. If rain, L. Lund can do a powerpoint at the library or town hall.

Ann Awad has begun work on knotweed eradication at corner of Waldo Lane, RT 140, and will need more tarps.

Budget

C. Macleod reported \$2025 in our CD from volunteer work at Stone Meadow by VCS. Of \$2500 for the current year, we have \$2248.58 remaining to spend by June on needed supplies and equipment.

Stone Meadow Work Day (April 22 at 4 PM)

The next WCC meeting will be partially a meeting and a Work Day as we walk the trails, and decide our needs in terms of maintenance, the items that will be needed for this year's budget (signage, equipment, bee supplies, kiosk maps, etc.)

Green-Up Day Saturday, May 4

We will again main the table at the library from 9-12. C. Macleod just heard that the state sent out the boxes of Green-Up bags.

Old/New Business

D. Eddy took the class from the VT Agency of Natural Resources on VT Biofinder, with maps by Lidar, initially done 5 years ago, and recently re-done and so much clearer, although the map still shows gravel extraction areas, and lack of present vegetation. Maps can be found at ANRMaps.VT.gov. Stone Meadow is included in sensitive areas for plants and/or animals.

J. Quigley reported that one of the four beehives survived the winter. There should be enough honey for sale for Town Hall, with most honey sales made last year at Wallingford Day.

Bravo to D. Duhaime and Carol Tashie for their letter on behalf of the WCC supporting HB706. This bill banning Neonics, which kills pollinators in agriculture, passed overwhelmingly the VT House, and is presently at the Senate Agricultural Comm.

D. Eddy and D. Scranton while on a walk noted much trash (old flower pots, etc.) tossed over the banks at the Wallingford cemeteries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM. Next meeting will be Monday April 22 at 4:00 at Stone Meadow to walk the trails for assessment of needs, Town Hall downstairs in inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Scranton