

DRAFT MINUTES, Wallingford Conservation Commission

Monday, April 22, 2024, 4:00 PM Stone Meadow at Waldo Lane

Call to Order at 4:05

Roll Call: Dennis Duhaime, Denise Eddy (co-chair leading mtg), Carol Macleod, Ralph Nimitz, Jane Quigley, Debbie Scranton.

Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2024, with one change as there will be no honey sales at Green-Up Day

Trex Recycling Program (revised 1/2024)

Casella has a huge initiative by 2030 for more community outreach. D. Eddy personally (not on behalf of WCC) previously wrote a letter followed up by another to the head of recycling, with no response. D. Duhaime will send an email to the coordinator at Trex.

New Tree Grant Availability

There are grants available with no matching funds (fruit and nut trees, ash tree removal) and the WCC will consult with Tree Warden, Rob Barker. The Selectboard has approved R. Barker's committee to inventory existing trees for the Shade Tree Preservation Plan.

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 in the Klock Room, approved by librarian Wendy Savery tonight.

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 30, with prior of the Selectboard, on needed supplies and equipment. We will need bees, new trail signage, possibly electric equipment, replacing existing gas as needed.

Old/New Business

Green-Up Day Saturday, May 4 and we will again man the table (from D. Duhaime on first shift) at the library from 9-12. C. Macleod putting up signs around town, library.

D. Eddy took the class from the VT Agency of Natural Resources on VT Biofinder.

Maps can be found at ANRMaps.VT.gov. Stone Meadow is included in sensitive areas for plants and/or animals. This course is being offered again Tuesday April 30, 11-12.

J. Quigley reported that none 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.

D. Duhaime brought up if there was interest in establishing amphibian crossings on roads in spring, which the WCC voted to do. We would need to get public feedback on locations, as well as those noted by the state, with documentation should tunnels under the roads be needed.

Per the Selectboard, each member of the WCC, current and future, must sign the our Mission Statement.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40PM.

WCC members then walked the Rim Trail to Elfin Lake, then on the beach road leading to Route 140. We noted threatened areas for the Eastern Brown Bat, and a grass by the bog area by the beach. Signage for the Skakel tree will be added, as will additional walking signage, and refurbishing the signs on the Upton and Klock benches, and the paddle sign by the canoe launch. Button bushes planted in the fall were observed. Much of the interpretative tree signage should be replaced and cleaned. The area with numerous trees just off the beach road are in good condition and just need cleaning. It was suggested a new sign be posted to make the public aware of this area, perhaps calling it "Tree Walk".

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 28, at 4:30 at Town Hall. (4th Monday changed because of Memorial Day.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Scranton