

**Waterbury Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes – 12/19/2017**

Present: Allan Thompson, Steve Hagenbuch, Joan Beard, Nick Waringa, Meg Taylor, Krista Battles,

Agenda approved. November minutes approved.

Public

- Alyssa Johnson from Revitalize Waterbury attended the meeting and announced the upcoming community conversation event being held on Saturday, January 6th from 9am -1pm at the Thatcher Brook Elementary School gym.

Updates

1. Planning Commission (Zoning)

- Brandy Saxton, the Planning Commission's rezoning consultant, reworked the old zoning maps and gave a preview of her draft at their meeting on December 18th.
 - o Zones renamed and definitions for each proposed zone provided
 - o Overlays were unavailable for viewing due to a technical issue
- The new zoning will bring the current zones into conformance and define how the town will continue to develop moving forward.
- Meg will reach out to Steve Lotspeich requesting a copy of the zoning map and descriptions.
- Thanks to Meg for attending the meeting and reporting back!

2. SHWC meeting Jan 24th 1-4pm

- The SHWC partnership is entering into a new phase as partner organizations are working to raise supporting funds.

3. Allan on WCAX Jan 9th

- Allan will be speaking with Phil Hoffman from The Nature Conservancy at 6:30pm as part of the "Wildlife Watch" program series.

4. New Area of Conservation Interest

- There was discussion of a potential conservation project in the Waterbury area that would focus on land conservation for recreational usage.

Planning for next issues; regroup

1. Town Plan rewrite

- The WCC may interact with the Planning Commission regarding inclusion of the SHWC in the rezoning discussions.
 - o The SHWC can not be included as an overlay, as it is not currently in the town plan. However, there is a concern that the SHWC will be overlooked if not brought to the Planning Commission's attention.
 - o Allan will contact Steve Lotspeich on the Planning Commission regarding the inclusion of the SHWC in the zoning revision discussion and in the coming town plan revision (Thank you Allan!).

2. Newly passed Act 171

- States that forest fragmentation must be addressed in Vermont town plans completed after January 1, 2018. Its primary focus is on highest priority interior forest blocks.
 - o The Waterbury town plan currently has a subchapter that addresses forest fragmentation in the “interior forest” section.
- The Act seeks to limit forest fragmentation through regulatory (zoning) and non-regulatory (conservation) means.
 - o The language of the Act leaves some room for interpretation.
- May be a great benefit in the efforts to conserve the SHWC.