

**Waterbury Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes – 4/9/2019**

Present: Allan Thompson, Steve Hagenbuch, Mike Hedges, Erin Hurley, Nick Waringa, Tracy Sweeney, Krista Battles

1. Agenda approved

2. Minutes Approved

3. Amphibian Crossing Assistance

- Tracy attended an amphibian training provided by the North Branch Nature Center, to assist amphibians crossing the road the early spring. Corridors were identified on Route 100 past Guptile Road, Gregg Hill, Kneeland Flats, and the Waterworks properties, among others.
- Volunteers choose an amphibian crossing area to monitor in the evening. They assist amphibians in crossing the roadway if possible and keep count of the roadkill.
- Committee members will engage in the activity this year and gauge if it could be an event to bring to the greater Waterbury community in years to come.

4. Invasive Prevention Planning

- Mike has spoken to town about the timing of mowing to limit the spread of invasive Wild cherville.
- Mike will be maintaining a map that depicts roadside invasive plant distribution across Waterbury.
- To populate the map, town roadside areas will be divided into route sections that individual committee members will inventory.
- Wild cherville, Japanese knotweed, European honeysuckle, Wild parsnip, and phragmites are the most common roadside invasive plants in the area.

5. Planning Commission and DRB Updates

- Alyssa Johnson of Revitalize Waterbury has expressed interest in attending the Waterbury Conservation Commission meeting on May 14th
 - Nick will not be able to attend this meeting
- The intent of the May 14th meeting is to have a conversation about the Shutesville Wildlife Corridor (SWC), and to explore the possibility of amending the town plan in order to account for mapped wildlife corridors, such as SWC.
 - The town plan may already contain language supporting a consideration of wildlife corridors in the zoning process. In which case, a layer representing the SWC map produced by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) could be a considered addition in the rezoning process. This could be integrated into the Act 171 consideration.
 - Should all wildlife corridors be brought under consideration, or should the focus remain on the SWC?
- Notes on the SWC:

- The SWC is a known and mapped conservation corridor, that was created with a regional perspective to allow for regional connectivity. The SWC is of great importance to state-significant populations.
- SWC is not specifically mentioned in the town zoning plan, though wildlife corridors are addressed. However, the SWC is specifically referenced in the town plan.
- The ANR produced map of the SWC is not publicly available.
- Interior forest blocks and connectivity blocks are included as maps within the town plan and are publicly available on ANR Atlas.
- It would be ideal for zoning to limit development density in forest blocks, connectivity blocks, and throughout the SWC.
- The current zoning requires an expert opinion to determine if development has a detrimental impact on wildlife corridors. An expert would be needed to define the parameters of what is harmful to a wildlife corridor, and what techniques could be used to minimize the impact of development.