



**Waterbury Conservation Commission  
Minutes (Draft)  
May 12, 2020  
Via videoconference**

Commission attendees: Allan Thompson (Chair), Joan Beard, Steve Hagenbuch, Erin Hurley, Tracy Sweeney, and Billy Vigdor

Commission absences: Mike Hedges, Tracey Sweeney

Public: Linda Gilpin

- Meeting convened 6:05 pm
- Minutes from April 2020 were meeting reviewed. Erin moved to approve. Seconded by Joan. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- Updates: Allan Thompson accepted an invitation from Carla Lawrence to continue as a Commissioner. The select board canceled the meeting at which Linda Gilpin's nomination to the Waterbury Conservation Commission (WCC) was to be considered. The cancellation was due to COVID-19 concerns. Linda's nomination will be addressed at the next select board meeting.
- Unified Development Bylaws
  - The WCC reviewed the May 12 draft. The discussion focused on changes made to two sections, which had been discussed in the April 2020 WCC meeting. Those sections were 3.4.2.D, which includes proposed language to prohibit communications towers and antennas and quarrying activities in the Ridgelines, Hillside, Steep Slopes and High Priority Wildlife Corridors Overlay District (RHSWC), and 3.4.2.E(3)(B), which would state that the WCC may provide a recommendation or supplemental evaluation for a zoning permit within the RHSWC).
  - The WCC discussed attaching the RHSWC map to the by-laws or to have the map held at the town administrative offices. The WCC agreed that this was an administrative point to be addressed with technical changes.
  - A motion was made by Erin and was seconded by Joan to approve the draft RHSWC. The WCC unanimously approved the draft RHSWC for submission to the Planning Commission.



- The WCC will prepare a cover memo to use when presenting a draft RHSWC to the Planning Commission and Steve Lotspeich, Waterbury Community Planner. Billy will prepare a draft for Allan's review.
- At a later date, the WCC will submit additional comments on other aspects Unified Development Bylaws to enhance their ability to protect natural resources. It was agreed that now is not necessarily the time to do so.
  
- Water Quality
  - This discussion was largely tabled efforts for testing the water quality were delayed due to Covid-19.
  
- Outreach:
  - Website:
    - WCC discussed updating a "beta" version of the website that has been constructed by Krista and features game camera wildlife photos from the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor. The WCC discussed the ongoing commitments to updating and maintaining such a website, developing a strategic plan and evaluating a possible target audience.
    - Erin and Krista agreed to reach out to Jamie Benson to determine his interest in updating the existing website. Erin and Krista will report to the WCC.
  - Program Offerings:
    - In addition to the website, the WCC discussed possible programs. The WCC has funds to support such programs. It was discussed that the WCC could partner with other groups or the WCC could fund efforts by other groups consistent with the WCC mandate.
    - Among the programs discussed would be to continue prior WCC events, e.g., such as nature walks and bird walks, and working on new programs, such as community science programs involving amphibians. There was also a sense that programs in which participants are outdoors are preferred, as compared to online video conferences.
  - More generally, the WCC discussed the complexity of developing strategic plans in a world experiencing a pandemic. Without a sense of what the post-pandemic world would look like, there was a sense that it is best to wait rather than develop extensive plans that likely would need to be revised.
  
- Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Billy Vigdor, June 1, 2020