



Waterbury Conservation Commission

Minutes

July 13, 2021

In person and via teleconference

Commission attendees: Billy Vigdor, Linda Gilpin, Steve Hagenbuch, Tracy Sweeney, Kelsey Applegate, Joan Beard

Commissioner Absence: Erin Hurley, Krista Battles, Allan Thompson

Public: Beth Gilpin, Rob Gilpin

- Meeting convened 6:00 pm
- Review, prioritize and modify agenda
 - Updates on water quality monitoring and the disk golf course were deferred to the next meeting
 - These agenda changes were approved by the Commission
- Review and approve prior meeting minutes
 - Several changes to the minutes were proposed during the meeting
 - Billy will circulate the minutes for final approval
- Waterbury Land Initiative (WLI) Presentation
 - Steve, acting on behalf of WLI, introduced a project in which some local landowners are coordinating with WLI to conserve approximately 70 acres. The project is not yet public but the landowners wanted to inform the Commission about the plans as a courtesy. This was only for information purposes. The Commission took no action on the proposal. There could be a time when WLI or the landowners would approach the Commission for assistance.
 - The property is within Waterbury and could include developing new multi-use trails and a new access point to existing trail networks.
 - WLI is coordinating with the State of Vermont, Waterbury Area Trails Alliance (WATA), Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, Vermont Land Trust, and Stowe Land Trust
 - At a future date WLI intends to approach the Select Board, the public, and landowners near the parcel for input. Steve will be the point of contact to maintain a coordinated effort.
- WCC role in DRB permit applications (Perry Hill – Clarke/Colon Project)



- Billy discussed a recent permit application on Perry Hill road within a significant block of undeveloped forest and bear habitat. Billy asked the WCC to consider ways to strengthen the commission's role in preventing forest fragmentation by attending future DRB meetings, reviewing regulatory processes, enhancing its current comments to the Planning Commission and assuming an educational role
 - Billy summarized his DRB presentation, which is on the DRB website.
 - Linda suggested that the DRB may desire more input from the WCC to address potential conservation impacts
 - Steve discussed Act 171, which required Vermont towns to address forest blocks in their municipal plans. He suggested that WCC builds on this statute by adding regulatory considerations
 - Joan suggested developing a checklist or set of questions to assess the impact of development in sensitive conservation areas
 - Billy suggested investigating past permits to access the problem further and seek opportunities to improve our role in permitting
- WCC Select Board and Development Review Board presentations
 - The Select Board told WCC members that it may be good for WCC to take more active role in land use management. More issues are coming up such as reservoir parking, overuse of the reservoir, and increasing interplay between nature and recreation.
 - Billy suggested the WCC create a calendar to track recurring issues such as invasive species and bears, and to release articles to the public on a regular basis. No vote was taken on the matter but Billy asked the Commissioners to consider this proposal.
 - Public Comments
 - Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Applegate July 19, 2021