



Waterbury Conservation Commission

Minutes

August 10, 2021

In person and via teleconference

Commission attendees: Billy Vigdor, Linda Gilpin (virtual), Allan Thompson (virtual), Tracy Sweeney, Kelsey Applegate, Joan Beard

Commissioner Absence: Krista Battles, Steve Hagenbuch

Public: Bob Linck, Louisa Nufield

- Meeting convened 6:05 pm
- Review, prioritize and modify agenda
 - The agenda was re-ordered so that Northeast Wilderness Trust presented first
 - The following agenda items were not discussed due to time constraints: WCC's role in development and the Town Forest Task Force
- Presentation by the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT)
 - NWT presented a project to conserve a parcel of land of approximately 73 acres of forest and wetland on Little River Road near the Green Mountain State Forest, Mount Mansfield State Forest, and Camel's Hump State Park. A local family wishes to conserve the land by transferring ownership to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). The VHCB and NWT would retain a joint conservation easement over the property.
 - The location of the parcel is significant due to its proximity to other conservation areas and because many species have been observed in the area. The current owners and NWT wish to conserve the parcel for the purpose of climate change resilience and biodiversity. The two parties wish to prohibit hunting and timber collection, and allow recreation activities in line with their conservation goals. The family and NWT do not wish to develop trails at this time.
 - NWT has requested a letter of support from the Waterbury Select Board, and is requesting a similar letter from the WCC. They would require the letter around September 8 in order to submit it alongside supporting documentation to the VHCB prior to a decision due in September.
 - Billy made a motion for the WCC to support the conservation of the parcel, which Alan will write into a letter of support subject to WCC vote via email. Joan seconded the motion and no dissenting votes were cast.



- Transitioning to and soliciting for a new Commissioner
 - The previous commissioner's vacant role of Treasurer was discussed. No decision was made at this time.

- Website update
 - The website requires update, and an interim website may be posted to keep information current while the full site is developed. A decision was not made as to who would be responsible for the website, which will be discussed again in the future.

- Public Comments. There no other public comments.

- Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Applegate