



Waterbury Conservation Commission

Minutes

Jul 12, 2022

In person

Commission attendees: Billy Vigdor, Linda Gilpin, Tracy Sweeney, Kelsey Applegate, Allan Thompson, Steve Hagenbuch

Commissioner Absence: Joan Beard

Public: Jane Ernstof

- Meeting convened 6:10 pm
- Review, prioritize and modify agenda
 - Linda requested that future meetings be virtual as well as live if possible
- Review and approve prior meeting minutes
 - Steve proposed a motion to accept October's minutes. Allan seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.
- Public Comments
 - Jane Ernstof expressed interest in being involved and helping with conservation issues. She is particularly interested in how housing and development affect conservation
- Timing and preparations for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Meeting
 - Meeting with Jens from VT Fish and Wildlife to help us get started with inventory – Date to be determined
- Questions for inventory
 - Allan discussed narrowing the inventory focus to understanding public opinion in order to prioritize community values
 - Allan asked for outcomes and goals, and the following were brainstormed:
 - Informing municipal regulations
 - Informing municipal planning
 - Driving education and advocacy
 - Municipal planning (planning commission)
 - Private education
 - Public engagement
 - With WCC



- With issues to activate participation
 - Pressing issues to guide themes of survey
 - Town forest
 - Climate change
 - Role of conservation commission
 - Priorities for themes – pull from strategic planning session (3-4 per person)
 - Linda mentioned might be some fatigue with recent Revitalizing Waterbury and Select Board surveys – could survey opinion shapers (rotary, RW, etc.)
 - Steve added we should make sure our questions complement RW survey & not redundant
 - Ensure follow-through
- Reducing the number of Commissioners
 - Currently there are 9 seats on the Waterbury Conservation Commission
 - A quorum is currently 5 seats. This number is based on the majority of the seats, regardless of whether or not they're filled
 - Adjusting the number of commissioners requires the bylaws to be changed
 - Changing the number of commissioners takes approximately two months. The seats must be filled or changed by January
 - Allan announced he plans on leaving the commission at the Town Meeting
- Update on Discussions with the Town
 - Frustration was expressed that town value survey didn't include conservation
- Elections
 - Chair – Steve nominated Billy
 - Secretary – Steve nominated Kelsey
 - Linda agreed to stay as treasurer
 - Steve made a motion to approve, Tracey second. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of all the nominees.
- Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Applegate October 7, 2022