



The Waterbury Conservation Commission held a Special Meeting on *April 16, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.*

Present: Amy Marshall-Carney, Marcy Blauvelt, Malachi Brennan, Marty Johansen, Meg Baldor *Public:* Josh Lincoln

A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications

- Updated agenda to include 1) Treasurer's Report; 2) Hope Davey/Thatcher Brook Riparian repair; and 3) Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir - Petition support request

Public Comments

- Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir (FoWR) attended to provide the WCC with an overview of wakesports and the implications of their use on other bodies of water across the country. Proactively the FoWR is seeking support from a variety of organizations and commissions to prohibit wakesport activities on the Waterbury Reservoir. The WCC agrees, if wakesport activities were to occur on the Waterbury Reservoir we would expect to experience:
 - Immediate ecosystem devastation caused by one pass of a wake boat - multiple passes causes permanent damage to shorelines, water quality and reservoir bottoms. Ultimately impacting watershed, wildlife and their respective habitats.
 - Increased potential for invasive species introduction - water ballast construction prohibits visual inspection
 - Safety concerns due to the size, height and turbulence of waves generated by wake boats can destabilize swimmers and other recreational vessels - kayaks, canoes, SUPs

(Marshall-Carney) Motion to formally support the ban of wakesports on the Waterbury Reservoir. The WCC plans to provide documented support for this ban following receipt and final review of the FoWR drafted petition.

- Josh Lincoln indicated his interest to become a WCC member. (Marshall-Carney) Motion to accept Josh Lincoln's interest to become a WCC member. (Brennan & Baldor) Second the motion. Motion carries.

Prior Meeting Minutes

- (Marshall-Carney) Motion to accept the minutes from 3/29 Special Meeting. (Brennan & Baldor) Second, the motion. Motion carries.

WCC Bylaws - Amendment Finalization

- Malachi concluded his review, re-organized content, made grammatical corrections and simple formatting updates. No substantial changes were made. (Baldor) Motion to accept amended bylaws. (Johansen) Second, the motion. Motion carries

Treasurer Report

- WCC ended 2023 with a balance of \$3,202.00. The 2024 WCC budget amount is \$700. Expenditures in 2024 are \$0. An invoice related to WCC outreach materials created in 2024 will be forthcoming.

Hope Davey - Disc Golf

- Meg provided commission members with a brief summary of the parks study conducted in 2022. Findings from the study have not yet been fully realized, some impacting natural areas (i.e. wetlands, invasive species management, riparian area restoration etc.) The commission discussed the importance of having WCC representation engaged in implementation and decision making associated with the Hope Davey natural areas. (Marshall-Carney) Motion to accept Meg's assignment as Hope Davey liaison. (Johansen) Second, the motion. Motion carries

Sub-Committee Update

- *Examine and update existing data, analysis, reports and assessments to support development and conservation decision making in and around the Shuttesville Hill Wildlife Corridor and Worcester Range*
 - Commission members were briefed on progress and determined further discussion is needed at our next meeting.
 - In late January, Marcy, Amy and Marty met with Mike Bishop the newly appointed Town of Wtby Zoning Administrator to learn about the current permitting process and inquire about process and application improvement opportunities.
 - In subsequent months, Amy reviewed and provided recommendations for (9) Town of Wtby zoning related applications

Action Items

- Amy to draft 4/16 Meeting Minutes and send to Commission for final review
- Amy to draft [letter of support](#) for Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir - Petition to ban wakesports on the Reservoir
- Josh to submit his WCC membership application to the Selectboard
- Amy to send Town Clerk [final version of amended WCC bylaws](#)
- Amy to send WCC members marked up copies of (9) Town of Wtby zoning related applications

Adjournment

- Upcoming meeting reminder - May 21st & June 18th
- The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm