

TOWN OF WESTFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Minutes for August 18, 2016 Meeting
Approved on September 19, 2016

Commission/Board Members Present: Jeremy Berger, Gordon Gebauer (Chair), Mark Letorney, Wendy Doane, Seth Jensen

Also present: Joel Fay (Conservation Commission member), Sue Adams (Interim Planning Coordinator)

The meeting began at 6:35p.m.

Implementation Plan Check-In with Conservation Commission

Joel gave an overview of the Conservation Commission's (CC) recent projects. These include updating the trail map, continued improvements to Schultz and Machia Hill trails, supporting the Jackson Farm and Forest project (JFFP) by way of coordinating walks on the Jackson property (October 8 & 22) and most recently offering assistance to the Town if the Selectboard (SB) decides to implement a forest management plan for the town-owned property adjacent to the school on Brookside Road. Joel added that the CC recently purchased a brush mower which has been very helpful with trail maintenance.

Mark thanked Joel on behalf of the PC and as a town resident for all the good work the CC has done in keeping the town trails accessible and maintained. Mark urged the CC to keep working on the trail maps. Specifically, Mark would like to see a more comprehensive map that includes both existing and future trails, as well as where the rights of way have been granted and where they are still needed.

Joel shared that the CC will be asking the Town to execute an easement deed on the Spiller property for a future recreational path.

Westford Land Use & Development Regulation Amendments:

The Commission finalized the first round of regulation amendments. There was some last minute polishing of previous edits. Gordon will write and prepare the public notices. The Commission considered dates for the required public hearing. Ideally, the sooner the better. Sue will try to have the edits available for public review and notices mailed to the required recipients by September 15th.

Citizens to be Heard, Announcements & Other Business:

Gordon gave a brief update on the Spiller Property. It was thought the Westford Historical Society might be interested in buying back the property, however, this is no longer the case. They do not want it.

Gordon gave a brief update on the JFFP. The Commission decided to postpone the test pits on the Jackson property until after the November vote. Sue will contact Amy from Stone Environmental. Sue shared that an application for the final site plan for the Gauthier 3-lot subdivision (Jackson property) will be forthcoming.

The fall PC schedule was discussed. Dates of upcoming meetings will be: September 19 (Sue to cover), October 17 (Melissa Manka will be back), November 21 and December 7.

Jeremy will write the PC submission for the September Newsletter.

Minutes of the July 18, 2016 Meeting

Jeremy MOVED to approve the minutes.

Wendy SECONDED the motion.

The motion PASSED: 5 – 0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45p.m.

Submitted by,

Sue Adams, Interim Westford Planning Coordinator