

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

AGENDA – MAY 18, 2022 6:00 PM – WESTFORD GAZEBO (weather permitting; Town Office if not)

Commision members present: Sarah Pinto, Kirsten Tyler, Chris Cunningham, Joel Fay, and Elias Rosenblatt. Dale Rodgers present (of counsel).

Members of the public present: Vicky Ross, & Kati Anderson

6:00 pm

- SEP calls meeting to order
- Review and Approval of April meeting minutes – So moved by SEP, seconded by JF, unanimous approval.

6:05 pm

- Public Comment
 - Trails Passport program (Vicky Ross)
 - Interest in restarting in June
 - In addition to trails, there are opportunities to include cultural locations around Westford, such as the Historical Society.
 - Boxes from last year in stock, but stamps will need to be updated or replaced, depending on trail selection
 - Clear plexiglass boxes will still be used, but will be eventually replaced with military surplus waterproof boxes for easy installation and lower costs
 - Prize incentives will remain like last year
 - WCC responsible for picking 10 trails for the passport program, and distributing passport boxes.
 - Other topics (Vicky Ross)
 - There is additional funding expected from DARPA that could be available for WCC application.
 - Discussed adjacent landowner to a trail offering use of vehicle and trailer to aid in trail maintenance project(s).

6:15 – Trail Updates

- Trails open?
 - School trails: Open except for Riverside North, which requires either water bars or foot bridges to travel across perennially-wet spots.

- Maple Shade: Open, though some cleanup remains from forestry activities and navigation of wet areas. Discussion about dog-porcupine encounters on Overlook trail.
- Schultz, Goodrich, and Seymour: need a bit more time to dry out, may be ready for Memorial Day weekend.
- Covey: Wet, but open. JF suggested tick awareness signs be added to this trailhead.
- Spring clean up
 - Plan to target remote trails and estimate trail opening dates.
 - 9:30 AM on Sunday May 23rd, meeting at school parking lot.
- Dog bags at School Trails – update
 - DR has successfully handed off maintaining dog waste infrastructure to local volunteer.
 - SEP will send thank you to volunteer.
- Passport Update
 - Already discussed during public comment

6:40 – July 4th WCC involvement

- Rec Committee invited WCC to have an information table at July 4th event
- Will discuss at June WCC meeting

6:45 – Membership – REVISIT - Are we asking SB for a 7-person membership?

- Will discuss at June WCC meeting

6:50 – Other business

- Newsletter Items
 - Trails should be open by newsletter publication date.
 - Users should watch for wet spots on trails
 - WCC understands that the Library will handle promotion of passport program
- Maple Shade Cleanup
 - WCC will work with county forester (Ethan Tapper) on ditching efforts in Maple Shade to assist in drainage
 - Discussed possible means of funding this effort.
 - Also loop in trail cleanup given debris from logging operation
- PhD student from UVM asking if Westford bog is perennially wet
 - Will advise student to contact Milton Conservation Commission as access is through the Milton Town Forest.

7:08 – Meeting adjournment so moved by ER, seconded by SEP, unanimous approval