



## WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

### **Westford Volunteer Trail Maintenance Day**

Do you enjoy hiking the beautiful trails Westford has to offer? Please consider signing up for our volunteer trail maintenance day. We will meet on October 16 at 9:30am at the kiosk in front of Westford Elementary School.

We will spend the morning clearing any debris on trails in the Maple Shade Town Forest (across the street from the school). Please bring loppers, clippers, rakes, and helpful children! Don't forget to bring water, snacks, and necessary layers for dynamic VT weather. This is a great way to contribute to maintaining the trails we all love and enjoy!

To sign up, please email WCC [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com).

### **Active Hunting**

Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest from October 1 - December 15, 2022. All hunting activity during these periods must follow state laws and season regulations. Be aware that other trails in Westford run through or abut private property, where legal hunting may take place.

Take precautions: wear orange and leash dogs.

Visit <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/hunt/hunting-and-trapping-seasons> for more information.

### **Westford's Community Wastewater Project**

The Westford Conservation Commission is in support of Westford's Community Wastewater Project. The declining health of the wastewater systems serving the buildings around the common has reached a critical point and we feel it is in the town's best interest to not only provide a solution for the existing buildings, but establish a structure that can allow our town center to grow and flourish under Westford's form-based zoning code. It is our duty to conserve the existing natural resources of our town, including soil and water. A community system would remove the need for individual septic systems which have the potential to leach and contaminate ground and surface water.

It was with this wastewater project in mind that the Jackson Farm was purchased and the Maple Shade Town Forest (MSTF) was established. As stated in the Management Plan for the Westford Town Lands, *"The MSTF may also provide the opportunity for creating wastewater capacity for the Westford Common, in the area designated in the property's conservation easement."*

We encourage everyone to learn more about the project and its benefits at [www.westfordfutures.com](http://www.westfordfutures.com).

### **Dale Rodgers**

WCC would like to thank Dale Rodgers for his tireless efforts and commitment to the Conservation Commission. Dale has officially retired from the WCC but remains an active and enthusiastic volunteer. Throughout his years of service he has trailblazed (Rodgers Ridge), sliced and diced hundreds of fallen trees, weed-whacked miles of trail, groomed trails, done dog doody duty, built bridges, dug ditches, hung signs, attended meetings, repaired snowmobiles, and been that guy that gives you a Nordic ski lesson when you weren't looking for one (and it was great). He will be missed in his official capacity, but unofficially we won't be able to get him off the trails.

### **And as always,**

Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. Email [westfordcc@googlegroups.com](mailto:westfordcc@googlegroups.com)

Our next meeting will be on October 19, 2022 at 6pm at the Westford Town Hall. Agenda will be posted in advance.

Enjoying the trails? **Consider a donation** to the Westford Conservation Commission to help our hard- working volunteers purchase equipment, hire professionals, and sponsor events.

Westford Conservation Commission  
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