

## WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES – AUGUST 16, 2023 6:00 PM – WESTFORD GAZEBO (WEATHER PERMITTING; TOWN OFFICE IF NOT)

Members present: Sarah Pinto, Chris Cunningham, Kirsten Tyler, Elias Rosenblatt

Public present: Dale Rodgers

6:00 pm

- Review and Approval of July meeting minutes – Approved
- Changes to Agenda - None

6:05 pm

- Public Comment
  - DR has weed whacked Maple Shade, Seymour, parts of the school.
  - DR reminded WCC of existing plans with landowners to shore up mud wallow parts of Goodrich Trail (Machia Hill side) with felled logs.

6:10 pm

- ARPA Shed and Snowmobile update
  - Shed is in progress. Structure has been framed and has walls. Next steps are getting the roof finished. Huge should out to JF and DR for leading the construction.
  - Snowmobile: Last updated was a tentative November arrival, all dependent on supply chain.
- Rec Committee concerns with clearing – stones, culvert
  - Resolved after conversation between committee members
  - Fellowship of the wheel contractors said they are working around the equipment.
  - KT suggests getting pump track plan from Rec Com for clarity on plan, SEP to email Lori Miller about pump track
- Revised trail clean-up – trouble spots
  - Trails are very wet at the moment due to continuous rains
  - Repa Rd. side of Goodrich has lots of ATV traffic that is causing ruts filled with water, ruining the trail
    - There is no option to put barriers up to block illegal vehicle access, as landowners have right-of-way.

- Perhaps a remedy would be to add material to high-traffic, problematic areas.
  - SEP to compose heartfelt plea to ATV riders to not ruin the trails that we work so hard to maintain.
- ER to draft email to landowners about the persistent issue of illegal offroad vehicle use, identify potential trouble spots, and propose hiring a contractor to do some spot fixes in trouble spots.
- Passport program
  - DR voluntarily installed boxes, and added that he flagged all boxes with orange tape to aid visibility.

#### 6:30 pm – Budget Request

- \$4,000 budget last year, we have kept level funding asks for the past few years.
- WCC will request asking for an increase to \$5,000 for replacing walkways and trail infrastructure given wetter summers for school trail and maple shade trail.
  - SEP motioned to make this budget request, ER seconded, unanimous approval.

#### 6:40 pm

- Signage within trails, at trail heads
  - Many trails need new signage, particularly general area maps with “you are here” markings.
  - SEP to contact sign business to make progress on trail maps.
- Blazing
  - Goal to replace tree tags with painted blazes on all trails excluding school trails (where there are no tree tags and all trails are well marked).
  - SEP to email Ethan Tapper about paint type and color
- Informational signs - Tabled

#### 6:55 – Other business

- Newsletter Items
  - Beware of wet spots, make sure trails are dry before walking through areas
- Schedule September meeting – to discuss x-country trail signage
  - Invite volunteers who groom school trails to comment on potential signage and policy to maintain a consistent message on winter multi-use policy.

6:57 – SEP motioned to adjourned, KT seconded, unanimous approval