

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 6:00 PM – WESTFORD GAZEBO (WEATHER PERMITTING; TOWN OFFICE IF NOT)

Members present: Sarah Pinto, Kirsten Tyler, and Elias Rosenblatt

6:00 pm

- Review and Approval of August meeting minutes
 - SEP motioned to approve minutes, KT seconded, unanimous approval.
- Changes to Agenda

6:05 pm

- Public Comment - None

6:10 pm

- Zoom call with Dean Pierce (Northwest Regional Planning Commission) and Dan Albrecht (Chittenden County RPC)
 - Dean and Dan are exploring potential partners for stream and river conservation.
 - Statewide, there is an ongoing effort to reduce nutrient loading in the lake]
 - Both Dean and Dan represent clean water service providers, which helps coordinate available funding.
 - There are funds available for restoration projects, and they are looking for an additional organization to join the Lamoille Basin counsel and aid in their watershed efforts to reduce nutrient loading.
 - An organization could be a separate entity from the Westford Conservation Commission and could work with citizens of Jericho and Underhill to protect the Brown's river top to bottom.
 - Discussion
 - An org is a good idea, to have CCs to prop up the initial organization, but ultimately, members step up and take on leadership roles. Perhaps 1 member of CCs are present to support.
 - KT - Can we use funding to hire project lead? Unlikely, as funds prioritize restoration projects.
 - Potential structure could be 1) organization can have one lead, town leaders for projects in town, and members from each town working towards each project, or 2) DA is interim leader of organization (manages project for each town), and eventually, each town brings its own leadership, and volunteers are drawn from the towns.

- WCC is interested in participating but would look for a broader discussion with other towns along the Browns River to see what the overall interest is and how it could be organized.

6:45 pm – Budget Request

- Planning to request a small increase in WCC budget given steady budget requests for multiple years, upcoming replacement of infrastructure and kiosk construction, and insurance for the snowmobile used for grooming.
- SEP to ask MJ for detailed spending report, inquiring about money in the conservation fund and money that we can spend.

6:55 PM – Other business

- Newsletter Items
 - KT - Follow-up with Bee the Change for language to raise awareness about the recent activity at the school.
- Schedule October meeting – planned to be regular 3rd week in October, but SEP will post any changes
- Weed whacking – Goodrich and maple shade needs attention.
- Tabled until October meeting
 - Blazing
 - Informational signs
 - X-Country signage

7:00 PM – Adjourn (Motioned by ER, seconded by KT, unanimous approval)