

02.18.26 - Westford Conservation Commission Meeting

Present: Elias Rosenblatt (ER), Joel Fay (JF), Sarah Pinto (SEP), Kirsten Tyler (RKT)

Guests: Logan Devaney

6:06 start

January minutes - ER moved to approve, SEP second, all approved

Changes to Agenda - None

Public Comment - None

### **1705 and River Access**

UVM and Kyle Buck working on water resources, flood resiliency, recreational access to the river from the property.

JF: Back of 1705 property is steep. If we built a handicap ramp, everyone could use it. But once you get down there, it's questionable as to how anyone, mobile or otherwise, could get to/access the river.

ER: UVM students will gather the data in order to foster community resilience through outreach. Meeting that Kirsten went to at 1705 had Pat Haller giving history of the property.

SEP: Can we develop river access without getting in the way of whatever the town wants to do? We can ask Kyle to focus on that?

Logan: Funding from TMobile is probably out of reach for this year since you need a shovel ready project application by 3/31. Other grant from Lake Champlain Basin Program (Public Waterfront Access Improvement Projects) provide grants for improving public access to recreation opportunities. Recommends that we apply for the TMobile grant anyway, because why not.

Logan: There are grants for technology upgrades, e.g., internet access.

RKT called in. ER updated her on discussion so far. We started to discuss path from Common to school. Fleurys are still holding out. SEP wonders if we could ask them again.

Other grant ideas: Stone wall grants. Wayside exhibits to put signs out to tell of ecological hotspots, natural and historic features. This could be done at Maple Shade and School Trails. Osprey platforms in beaver ponds. We put all this under the TMobile grant and include a request for cell service. Massage that into the idea of putting up QR code trails signs (e.g., where am I?).

Trail update - trails are good, Tom grooming most of them.

Emerald Ash Borer - meeting on Friday with the town as far as addressing it.

6:56 PM SEP moved to adjourn, ER second, all approved

DRAFT