

WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES

– June 17, 2026 6:00 PM –

WESTFORD TOWN OFFICE

Commission members present: Joel Fay, R. Kirsten Tyler, and Elias Rosenblatt

Public present: Becca DaVanon and Kati Anderson

6:05 PM:

Meeting called to order

Review and approval of May meeting minutes - RKT moved to approve, JF seconded, unanimous approval.

Changes to agenda - (RKT) add closeout of fiscal year by next Thursday (June 24th), and updates on Emerald Ash Borer town action plan.

6:09 PM:

Public comment - None

6:10 PM:

UVM capstone project report – Kyle Buck (Tabled)

Discussion around quotes for invasive species removal and next steps

- Initial quote was \$1000 to treat patch along Riverside North trail, and \$3000 for first year of treating larger patch at 1705.
- Becca DaVanon has knotweed moving from behind the Historical Society towards their septic system. Concerns raised about mowing knotweed in this area actually acts to spread the plant, not suppress it.
- WCC discusses broader conversations to have with the Selectboard, the historical society, the common committee, and private land owners about developing and implementing a plan to address the growing problem of knotweed around the common.
- WCC will approach the selectboard for approval for addressing the small patch on Riverside north, to eradicate it.
- WCC will also contact the selectboard to get on an upcoming agenda to discuss townwide effort and plan to protect local assets.
 - This will include the historical society and common committee to invite them into the broader conversation.
- Point raised that there are federal and state rebates, perhaps through the CCRPC that could be applied to alleviate the burden on the town to deal with this.

Watershed grant – progress and next steps

- Elizabeth Ploof is looking into materials for water quality testing at the school. The idea is to use funds for materials and outreach.

Trail conditions and maintenance updates

- RKT to nudge Selectboard about trail maintenance documents. Delays are going to make trail restoration more costly.
- No trail maintenance day for June, perhaps plan for one in the fall, but need to understand our access to the trail network for maintenance.

6:50 PM: - Other business

- Newsletter items - Trail aware, ticks, normal stuff.
- ER to inquire about the state of WCC budget to see if WCC can afford additional trail maintenance materials and a new wire trimmer.
- JF has donated many hours of use of his tractor, and has recently had mechanical troubles. WCC will discuss plans to alleviate the burden on JF and his personal equipment.
- Emerald Ash Borer - Training will occur at the end of July, and will be managed by the Planning Commission.

7:18 PM - JF moved to adjourn, RKT seconded, unanimous support. Meeting adjourned