

Westmoreland Conservation Commission minutes

January 7, 2016

Meeting called to order at 10 AM

Present :Marshall Patmos, Chair, John Lukin, Vice Chair, Perry Sawyer, Jim Ranson, Dick Schmidt, Mary Bradley

The minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

The 2016 budget request of \$800 has been submitted to the selectboard .

Rob Riendeau, manager of the water treatment facilities at Maplewood, gave a presentation of the process of extracting , treating and testing the water from the Connecticut River that the county uses at the nursing home and other facilities. County usage is around 30,000 gallons a day. The treatment and distribution is subject to regulations and guidelines by the NH Department of Environmental Services and the Environmental Protection Agency.

He discussed an effort by Bruce Harrison, County Facilities Manager to inform landowners in the area upriver from the County facility to be aware of any activities or land management that might adversely affect the water quality of the river and perhaps their own water supply. This Source Water Protection Area has been identified on both sides of the river through Westmoreland and up through Walpole.

Andy Madison, Senior Water Specialist with Granite State Water Association was also present and reviewed the Source Water Protection Program. Dick Schmidt and John Lukin volunteered to serve on a committee updating guidelines for the groundwater protection plan.

After the very informative presentations, the Commission felt we might be able to provide some assistance to the Source Water Protection Program perhaps through a public information session.

Marshall reported that the request to reappoint Selena as alternate member and make Mary a full member can't be acted on until after their terms end in April.

There was some discussion of the request to the town by Cheshire County for the restoration of involuntarily merged lots which would add 9 more separate properties within the county ownership in Westmoreland. No reason has been given for the request and the Selectboard will request more information.

The Commission has been requested to join other Conservation Commissions in the state to send a letter to NH Fish and Game in opposition to a proposed bobcat hunting and trapping season. After discussion of the perceived pros and cons of the proposal, those present couldn't reach a consensus and it was decided not to send a letter from the Commission. This certainly doesn't stop a member from contacting Fish and Game on their own. There is a public hearing scheduled for Monday, February 1 at 6:00 pm at Representatives Hall in the NH State House in Concord.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am. Next meeting is scheduled for February 4 at 10 am at the Town Hall.

Submitted by Marshall Patmos