

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Minutes (unapproved)

June 4, 2014 Meeting

In attendance: Marshall Patmos, Jim Ranson, April Ferguson, Richard Schmidt, John Lukin, Selena Gallen, Perry Sawyer

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

Old Business:

Since this was the first meeting in a while to have a quorum the minutes of the March, April and May meetings were approved.

The April 19 road side clean-up sponsored by the Commission and spearheaded by the Lions Club had 31 volunteers, collecting 105 bags of debris collected along about 20 miles of road.

This is a great, much appreciated, effort by the Lions Club to help keep our town beautiful.

The idea of bringing back Junk Amnesty Day was discussed. This was a very successful effort a number of years ago that waived fees for any material (no chemicals, pesticides etc.) brought to the transfer station. We should investigate possible grant money to help fund the event. There some mention of New Hampshire not having a bottle bill and how we could help keep things clean and help reduce the need for roadside cleanup.

Emergency work upstream of the East Westmoreland Route 12 bridge tentatively needing immediate work in anticipation of storm events is now required to be applied for under a non-emergency status, increasing the time and cost to complete. No status to report on the application process.

New Business:

Given the apparent changes that may occur at the County Farm, (ie. Maplewood move, jail demolition, sale of land), it was decided that we would draft a letter to the Select board and perhaps County Commissioners. We need to point out the importance of the area as a unique natural resource adjacent to the river. The diversity of the 600 acres of farmland/woodland is critical to the area and important to conserve and retain in public ownership. Marshall and John will draft something for review. Dick reported that according to the Monadnock Conservancy there might be some possible funding for conserving the land.

Dick reported that the Master Plan update-still moving along continuing to work on goals.

An education series was discussed for this coming fall. A few of the topics discussed were wetland rights, road law, conservation easements, property taxation.

As a conservation effort, we want to continue to identify and map important potential conservation lands in order to contact landowners through educational efforts. Selena will look into that and John will continue his preparation of working maps

The next meeting is July 3, 2014

This meeting was adjourned at 8:04

Respectfully submitted by Selena Gallen