

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
Minutes of the July 2, 2015 meeting

Present : Marshall Patmos, Jim Ranson, Mary Bradley, Perry Sawyer, Selena Gallen

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

The minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting were approved.

Marshall reported that June 24 he signed an expedited wetland permit application for the work to be done on South Village Road bridge. The work has been delayed due to communication problems between the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Services. Scheduled completion might be delayed for a significant time period. Hopefully things can be resolved quickly.

The individual interested in conserving farm land met with us and we again reviewed various first steps including securing an appraisal and survey. The issue of having the Town be the easement holder was discussed with perhaps a backup holder such as a formal Conservation organization. There was agreement to help offset the cost of an appraisal and survey if necessary. Pending estimates for those services, the Commission will determine what a reasonable expenditure might be. Other communities that do hold conservation easements will be contacted to see how they function and their procedures for doing them.

A review of our June 22 meeting with Stacy Gambrel, Conservation Project Manager with Monadnock Conservancy found that she was very informative and is willing to meet with us again should we need some help. She sent Marshall information on appraisers, surveyors lawyers, maps and other conservation easement information. He will forward to the members.

We planned for a booth at the school for Old Home Day , Saturday August 15. In addition to Mary's exhibit of the nature trail we'll have several resource maps (to be determined later), conservation easement and natural resource info, perhaps a sign-up sheet for e-mailings. Selena said if we could get some pictures to her she would put a computer slide program together. The pictures can be scenes of town, nature etc, We will need some easels and some wall space to exhibit the maps we plan to display. We will review what we have at the next meeting. The exhibit time is 9-2 so we should be able to work out a schedule ok.

Marshall reported that he and Dick Schmidt attended a Joint Rivers Commission training in Brattleboro on invasive aquatic plants in the river. He shared the training manual that came with the session.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2015 at 7 pm at the town hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm

Submitted by Marshall Patmos