

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes for 8/7/14 (unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:02

Those present: Marshall Patmos, Jim Ranson, April Ferguson, Perry Sawyer , Selena Gallen, John Lukin, and guest Mary Bradley

Old Business:

The minutes of the July meeting were approved by those present.

Marshall shared a draft letter and factsheet to be sent to the Cheshire County Commissioners and County Delegation (legislators) concerning our positive position on conserving the county farm property. A draft was given to the town select board, their support/endorsement was requested and denied. More editing will be done before they are both officially sent out. Our goal is to have them in the mail within a couple weeks.

Selena reported that she spoke with our state representative, Paul Berch concerning the county farm property and nothing new was learned. Paul also approached the town select board for support and was denied.

Perry brought up a concern about providing adequate flood protection for the farmland downstream from the bridge over Aldrich Brook on River Road North. The new bridge and stream work is almost complete. It appears the plans don't call for additional work to be done to keep much of the farmland below the bridge protected. Perry volunteered to speak with the NRCS to see if more can be done to protect the land below bridge or if there are plans to do so.

John reviewed his work on the town maps and sorted the landowners by name to make it easier for us to see who to approach for possibly conserving parcels of primary importance. He will send the listing to the rest of the commission.

Marshall reported on the meeting with landowners, NH Dep Environmental Services and NH Homeland Security on July 17 concerning the flooding on route 12. Following an overview of the mechanics of flooding and possible solutions, a tentative field visit with landowners and State staff was planned. It was pointed out that there are no state funds and the town has no responsibility for this privately owned land. Following a field visit a week or so after the meeting, the State determined that no work (other than some of the tree removal) can be done without a proper plan/application prepared and submitted by an engineer in the landowners behalf.

The questionnaire we plan to do was reviewed. It was suggested that we look at the 2003 master plan questionnaire as a guide for an addition to what Selena prepared.

Master Plan update-progress is moving along slowly.

New Business:

We reviewed and approved the permit application for replacing the bridge on Makinen Rd. Marshall will sign all copies and return to Jo Ann to be sent to Concord.

As requested by the town, Marshall inspected a reported wetland violation on the Horace Kingsbury property on South Village Road. No violations of the town or state wetland regulations were found.

Due to a number of conflicts, our next meeting is scheduled for Oct 2.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Unapproved minutes submitted by Selena Gallen