

Westmoreland Conservation Commission
February 4, 2016 meeting

Meeting called to order at 10:am

Present: Marshall Patmos, John Lukin, April Ferguson, Jim Ranson, Dick Schmidt
Perry Sawyer, guest John Snowden

Minutes of the January 7 meeting were approved as submitted.

A brief discussion of our budget for 2016—our request for \$800 was reduced to \$642 in the selectmen's budget. Budgeted addition to the conservation fund that comes from 50% of the current-use penalties is \$2000. There were no penalties, therefore, no additions to the fund in 2015.

John Snowden of Westmoreland and a member of the board of supervisors of the Cheshire County Conservation District was introduced as our guest. He spoke briefly about his interest in our activities and the work of the district. We have many things in common and will be able to work together on some issues.

Marshall reported on a January 26 Farmland Conservation Forum he attended. The session was sponsored by the Conservation District and the Monadnock Conservancy was very informative and introduced a number of different options for landowners.

Wondering if the Commission could help, a landowner brought in a water sample with orange color and sediment taken at an outlet from a pond. John Lukin (our water specialist) was able to identify the problem as iron oxide and other stuff that wasn't really very harmful much to the relief of the landowner.

A discussion of possible topics for our public information sessions included groundwater and drinking water issues in addition to land conservation.

There was considerable discussion about the County Farm and possible conservation of the land along with the future of the farm operation/lease. We should get more information on some of the more important portions of the County ownership and perhaps target those areas for conservation if there is reluctance to consider the whole property. In addition, other land along the river and in other parts of town is extremely important to conserve. We have to continue to identify important parcels. Part of the process is to review the information and maps we already have and generate more data as needed with the help of others such as Cooperative Extension, Conservation District, Southwest Regional Planning Commission, and the Monadnock Conservancy.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 3 at 10 am at the town hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Submitted by Marshall Patmos