

## Westmoreland Conservation Commission

March 6, 2014 minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:58 pm

Present: Marshall Patmos, April Ferguson, Dick Schmidt, Jim Ranson, Perry Sawyer, John Lukin  
Minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting were approved as corrected.

There was a discussion of the April 5 "Saving Special Places" conference in Laconia with a reminder that the deadline for registering is March 28.

Our 2014 budget request of \$600 has been included in the town budget request.

We reviewed the town applications sent to the Department of Environmental Services for

- 1) removing woody and non woody debris from Aldrich brook for a distance of about 860 feet upstream from the site of the River Road North bridge which is going to be replaced.
- 2) replacing the River Road North bridge

Both applications with extensive, detailed plans were signed earlier as part of the states expedited wetland application process so that work could get started. Both projects will be overseen by professional assistance, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The Commission saw no further action needed on our part for the projects to proceed.

Copies of the approved applications are available in the town office.

John Lukin one of our representatives (Dick Schmidt is the other) to the master plan update committee led a discussion on conservation priorities to be outlined in the new plan. While there are many objectives in a number of documents including the 2012 Conservation Plan and its supporting data, more direct, succinct objectives and activities should be outlined. Retaining the rural character of the town is a primary goal as expressed by a number of surveys over the years. Conserving open space through the retention of open/farm land and its economic viability with a priority given to the corridor along the Connecticut River was discussed. A first step would be an inventory of land with acreages, locations and owners. Once data is gathered, formal and informal outreach efforts (personal contact, public sessions, etc.) to help explain the various processes for helping to voluntarily conserve the land. Much of the natural resource data and mapping has already been done through our natural resource inventory preparation. Large un-fragmented forest blocks were also mentioned as possible high priority for conservation. John will pull some of the ideas together for review at the next meeting.

Marshall presented some land data he prepared including total acres and % of forest land water, open land (total area 23577.46 acres---total land 22986.86 acres-- total water (includes Conn River) 590.59 acres). We discussed the idea that this type of information plus other such as c-use data, gravel pits, conservation land, working farms, number of parcels, etc. along with demographic data might be of interest to folks to include with the natural resource data already available. Marshall will pursue getting the information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 3, 2014

Respectively submitted, Marshall Patmos