

Westmoreland Conservation Commission

May 5, 2016

Meeting called to order at 8:30 am

Present: Marshall Patmos, John Lukin, Mary Bradley, Perry Sawyer, Dick Schmidt,
April Ferguson, Selena Gallen

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Due to some changes in her life, Selena Gallen submitted her resignation as a member of the Commission. It was regretfully accepted and she was thanked for her service to the town as a member for more than ten years.

Mary showed a couple posters that she prepared for her report and display for her work with the nature club at the school. Her effort has been a real success and there will be a formal dedication of the trail.

The Commission discussed the April 18 Planning Board decision to not include the Conservation Plan in the updated master plan. They will be including a one page synopsis and referral to the Towns website for more information. We will be reviewing our 2012 Conservation Plan and perhaps make some changes if needed.

We reviewed a letter from the Department of Environmental Services concerning the highway department's wetland violation adjacent to Partridge Brook on the Spofford Road. According to the letter, the Town has to hire a NH certified wetland scientist by May 13 and submit a plan by June 10 for restoration and stabilization of wetland impacts.

Since we don't have an officially designated secretary it was decided to rotate the duty to different members in attendance.

The Lions Club spearheaded another successful roadside cleanup(39 participants collecting 98 bags of trash) on May 23 with Conservation Commission sponsorship. Mary participated in the effort this year.

We discussed land conservation issues and will continue to prioritize needs expressed by residents a number of times to retain the rural/agricultural character of the town.

A suggestion was made to consider some kind of outreach –hardcopy or electronically to keep residents aware of the Commission's function and activities, including assistance we can provide. We will have to come up with some alternatives and further discuss at a future meeting.

An invasive plant identification public tour is to be planned for the county farm. No date has been set yet but one member suggested that it be held before June 18. An early evening session would seem to work best. Perhaps co-sponsoring the session with Cooperative Extension, NRCS and the Conservation District.

We still have to review and organize maps and other information in the "map" closet. Hopefully we can do this at our next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday June 2 at 8:30 am. Several members did a preliminary review of some of the maps in the closet after the meeting which was officially adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted ---Marshall Patmos