

Westmoreland Conservation Commission Minutes June 4, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm

Those present-Marshall Patmos, Selena Gallen, Jim Ranson, Perry Sawyer, April Ferguson, John Lukin

The minutes from the May 7, 2015 meeting were approved.

We met again with the landowner interested in conserving farm land and reviewed various first steps including securing an appraisal and survey and gathering legal information. The specifics of management priorities of the landowner, expectations of the easement holder, funding and monitoring were discussed.

The landowner will get some information and Marshall will make some contacts to get specifics of what might be needed. We'll get a professional in these matters to meet with us and the landowner.

Marshall met with Stacy Gambrel, Conservation Project Manager with Monadnock Conservancy and will contact her to arrange a meeting with us. Tentative plans are for a daytime meeting on June 22,

John reported that the Master Plan is still in the final draft review stage with the planning board.

Marshall reported that he met with Harry Underwood , GIS Planning Technician with SWRegPlanningCommission concerning the towns resource maps. He found that the Fisher property is listed but not shown on our conserved lands map. Once we inventory what maps we do have, he can check to see if there are more recent copies available. We hope to have some of the maps back in the meeting room for reference and for public use. JoAnne is looking for a map holder similar to the one in the selectmen's office. We should plan to look at our maps at the next meeting.

We discussed our participation in Old Home Day on August 15. We'll have resource maps, conservation and natural resource information, including photos, perhaps a slide show and interactive activity. Mary will plan to have a display of her project with the elementary school. Selena said she could get some material from the UNH Coverts program.

Selena gave a short overview of the Coverts Training Program she attended. The highlight for her was the importance of grasslands along the river and how the sponsoring organizations come together to offer this amazing program. Cooperation, learning, fun and fabulous food. And a fair amount of field time. "There was a tremendous amount of information crammed into our heads and a great opportunity to meet those in the area who can help us make things happen. We also had many examples of how to reach out to folks who might be interested in conserving land.. We also had an opportunity to learn how to prioritize lands for conservation." One of the commitments one has to make in exchange for taking this class is to give back 40 hours of service in the next year. There are a number of ways to meet this commitment.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 2.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Selena Gallen