

Town of Waitsfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2023

6:30 PM In-Person & Zoom

Members Present: Huffman, Grimaldi, Loomis, Donaldson, Telep, Lindberg, Laferriere, Joslin

Members Absent: Cook

Lindberg opens the meeting at 6:40 PM

**Welcome and Agenda Review**

No changes to agenda

**Public Input**

No public input

**Review/approve 4/17/23 minutes**

MOTION to APPROVE April 17th minutes by Leo, SECONDED BY Phil.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL. Ted abstained as he missed the April meeting.

MOTION to APPROVE April 6th 2023 Tri Town Minutes by Phil. SECONDED by Curt.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL save for Leo and Telep who abstained.

**Tardy Parcel Management Plan Preliminary Draft Review and Next Steps, Including Possible Special Meeting for Public Input - Phil**

Phil discussed the plan draft and who he sent the draft out to review and get feedback.

Comments: Curt noted various invasives on the property. Phil will fold in the additional invasive species.

Section 4 comment from Curt on page 6 - should WCC be the overall management lead in the report before Select Board is aware of that language for the Tardy parcel.

Curt comment - what portion of the property is still under agriculture in Section 5. Phil - leave the quote. Is there any meaningful agriculture value to Hadley Gaylord or generalize it more if Hadley is no longer working the property. Phil- maintain a modest area for agriculture if there is value. Leo - the Town has no written agreements with Hadley. There is a question of whether Hadley has any rights to the access road. Chris - would the management plan preclude using the property for a community garden - the answer is no.

Curt - Section 5 - last bullet point - be more specific for what changes would be monitored?  
Probably best to leave it open as it is with other management plans.

Curt - Section 6 - should swimming, etc be prohibited or keep language stating discouraged or other language? Phil will merge the two applicable bullets citing permitted but access is not a management priority.

Reviewed Leo's suggested project plan and map document. Discussion ensued on if it should be incorporated into the plan and to what degree. Decision to integrate the addition of it as an activity in the plan.

### **Grant Application to Flood Resilient Communities Fund - A Watershed Model for Invasive Species Management and Ecosystem Restoration - Curt**

Curt authored a draft of the plan and has to be submitted next week. Curt reviewed the plan with the WCC members.

Leo asked if the potential wastewater plan could affect the Tardy parcel and is it worth planting trees at Tardy in light of this. After discussion, continue with the grant application and adjust Tardy planting plans as needed as new information comes available regarding wastewater plans.

MOTION to APPROVE to submit grants by James, SECONDED by Bruno  
Unanimous approval

MOTION to APPROVE Bruno, SECONDED by James to pay Wood and Wood Signs \$51.68 for signs. Unanimous approval

Financial Matters - Bruno

Other Business (10 min +/-) – 7:35

- Next meeting: 6/19 at 6:30 pm - Curt
- Scrag trail project update – James
  - Contract signed. Contractor starts second week of July.
- MRV conservation and recreation visioning public forum – 6/15 at Lareau Farm Pavilion, 5-6 pm potluck, 6-8 pm meeting - Phil
- Town Plan approval by Selectboard, including Act 171 components - Phil
- Other items
  - Surveyor thinks he found the location of Shaw house. TBD whether town has a right-a-way.

MOTION to Adjourn by Ted, SECONDED by Phil. Unanimous approval.