

Washington Conservation Commission
Minutes – November 15, 2023

Assembly time: 7:00 PM, meeting at Town Hall.

Members present: Arin Mills, Jed Schwartz and Nan Schwartz

Visitors: None

- 1.0 Approval of Minutes: October minutes, Jed made a motion to approve as written, Arin seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- 2.0 Permits Committee –
New: **Buechel**, TM 24-53, Lookout Pt, Shoeland PBN, accepted
LAE, TM 14-490, Peninsula Rd., Wetland PBN, under technical review
Previous:
Taylor/Cuppett, TM 12-55, 379 McLaughlin Rd., Shoreland Standard, approved
Calabro – DES requiring a restoration plan for waterfront clearing.
Cote, TM 24-58, 46 Lookout Point Road, DES asking for response on one outstanding request
***Colette** - Complaint of violations, TM 12-69, over clearing of waterfront zone, no follow up yet
** these are complaints with no follow up by DES, Arin will make an information request on these.*
- 3.0 Committee and Board reports
 - 3.1 Land Protection Committee – No news
 - 3.2 Energy Committee – They aren't meeting right now.
 - 3.3 Planning Board – Nan said they are holding a Public Hearing on December 5th on the Driveway proposed changes.
 - 3.4 Forestry Committee – No news
 - 3.5 Legislative – No news.
- 4.0 Public Presentations and workshops –
 - 4.1 Fall hike – We had a successful fall hike with about 12 people attending.
 - 4.2 WES visit – Arin said that Keely is on maternity leave and we will contact the school when she gets back. Arin said Dawn (SCCD) visited again this fall. Jed would like to plan a vernal pool presentation for spring (early May). We will discuss again in February.
- 5.0 New Business:
 - 5.1 CMPC document – We went through the draft that Nan started and decided we should include a map with measurements and acreage of the property. We will include the map and lot numbers. We will include a list of present uses and activities. Nan will split the document into history, responsibilities and uses. We will work on making a map.
 - 5.2 Sullivan County Trail Project Map – Nan explained that the set of maps was sent to us by Andrew Hatch who is our local commissioner on the UVLSRPC board. Nan will ask Andrew if they are looking for feedback.
 - 5.3 NHACC dues – We received an invoice for NHACC dues for 2024 for \$250. Jed made a motion to pay the invoice, Nan seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Nan will leave the invoice and request for payment for Cindy to pay from our Conservation fund.
- 6.0 Other Business:
 - 6.1 Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pickup – Done until next spring.
 - 6.2 Tom Davis – Jed will talk to Larry and the Select Board. We will decide if and when we should go out and look at the property
 - 6.2 Trails and Recreation Guide Booklet – Arin has been working on the maps again. Nan and Arin will continue working on this.

- 6.3 Facebook Page – Arin said she is continuing to post items when she can. To check out the CC's Facebook page go here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2173271309586226/>
- 6.4 East Washington Town Forest – There is no new information on this. Jed will speak to Ed.
- 6.5 Master Plan goals for 2023 – This is a placeholder.

7.0 What's Happening in Nature?

Arin has had tons of Blue Jays at her feeder along with Tufted Tit Mice.

She said that A bull moose was spotted crossing Presidential Drive moving towards Farnsworth Hill.

Nan said they had a flock of 6 Blue Birds near the garden and bird houses. They didn't stick around.

Arin has seen more foxes in LAE and heard coyotes yipping at night close by.

She said there is a skim of ice on Ashuelot Pond after the cold nights. She said that all the ponds are drawn down now but Ashuelot has stayed high due to the water draining into it from other lakes.

Nan said there was ice on Mill Pond but it is now gone. October 24th was our first hard frost this year and we had a recent snow of .5" last Thursday. We wonder what the Old Farmer's Almanac says is in store for our winter, to see, click here: NewinNature.html

8.0 Correspondence:

8.1 Invoice from NHACC for 2024 dues

9.0 Adjourned at 8:30 PM, the next meeting is December 13th at 7PM, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Schwartz, Secretary