

Washington Conservation Commission
Minutes – January 10, 2024

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: November minutes, Jed made a motion to approve as written, Arin seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
- 2.0 Permits Committee –
New: **Todd Mandriola**, 90 Lookout Point Rd, Shoreland PBN, house addition and new water line, accepted
Previous:
LAE, TM 14-490, Peninsula Rd., Wetland PBN, denied
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 – No news
 - 3.3 Planning Board – Nan said that the Driveway proposed changes will be on a ballot at Town Meeting..
 - 3.4 Forestry Committee – No news
 - 3.5 Legislative – No news.
- 4.0 Public Presentations and workshops –
 - 4.1 WES visit – Arin said that Kelly is back and she will speak to her about a vernal pool presentation for late April. We will discuss again in March. Jed and Nan will get their background checks done.
- 5.0 New Business:
 - 5.1 CMPC document – We went through the document and made some more edits. Arin will work on making a map. We made a list of items we want located on the map, ie the bunwarmer building, existing snowmobile trail and the communication tower.
- 6.0 Other Business:
 - 6.1 Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pickup – Done until next spring.
 - 6.2 Tom Davis – Jed spoke with Larry and the Select Board. We did I site visit to look at the property in late November. All concurred that it was not advantageous to let Davis access his property through the Town Forest property. He has another access that is decent. Arin will draft a letter to Davis stating this and cc the Select Board.
 - 6.2 Trails and Recreation Guide Booklet – Arin has been working on the maps again. Arin will send the new maps she has to Nan to put in the document.
 - 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 – Nan said that she saw Meridian's crew surveying the site to lay out the road late in November or early December.
- 7.0 What's Happening in Nature?

Jed said he put up the bird feeder right after Thanksgiving and no birds came to eat for 2 weeks. Now the feeder is busy since the snow fall. Lots of Goldfinches, Chickadees, Juncos and Tit Mouse, a couple of Mourning Doves too. He hasn't seen any Squirrels or Chipmunks at all this year.
Arin said she has 5 or 6 squirrels that visit her bird feeder daily. She also saw a squirrel eating a stag horn

sumac berry cluster.

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

Nan said they saw deer and moose droppings and lots of browsing up on Farnsworth Hill.

Arin said that Ashuelot Pond was open again during the warm spell but ice has formed again now that it has gotten colder.

Jed said that there has been ice in and out several times this winter in Mill Pond. The water was wide open last week but new ice has formed again. We had no snow and warm weather through Christmas.

Recently we had some snow followed by rain. We are in a strange weather pattern but it should get colder later in the week. He commented on the weird winter weather we've been having and how the El Nino is effecting it. To learn more about El Nino, click here: NewinNature.html

8.0 Correspondence:

8.1 Copy of Notice from DES to Barkie asking for outstanding items.

8.2 Copy of Notice from DES to Calabro asking for tree plan.

9.0 Adjourned at 8:02 PM, the next meeting is February 14th at 7PM, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Schwartz, Secretary