

Washington Conservation Commission
Minutes – March 13, 2024

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

Members present: Arin Mills, Jed Schwartz and Nan Schwartz

Visitors: Mark Florence and David Chevront

1.0 Approval of Minutes: February, Jed made a motion to approve as written, Arin seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

2.0 Permits Committee –

New: **Aboreal Oasis**, 1025 Ashuelot Dr, TM 10-3, After the fact Shoreland Permit for a deck, under technical review. Arin reported it was discovered that building was happening on the site in the shoreland zone. She observed this from the water last fall. She questioned the BoS as to whether they had an open building permit. There was no permit from the Town or DES for the building. The Select Board issued a cease and desist. They now have a shoreland permit application in. ARLAC asked us to comment and we had correspondence from a concerned abutter. Arin wants us to speak with the BoS about it because they made a site visit out there and will have information we need. Jed will arrange a time to meet with them tomorrow afternoon.

Sabine, 94 Lookout Point Rd, TM 24-54, Shoreland PBN, addition to an existing shed, accepted.

Libby, Millen Pond Rd, TM 15-78, Shoreland Permit, septic line and pump station, under technical review.

Previous:

Calabro – DES approved the tree planting, reforestation plan, accepted

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 – We have had correspondence from a property owner who would like to protect a 20-acre lot of land. Jed spoke with Carol Andrews about it and we will find a time when we can meet with the property owner and Carol.

3.2 Energy Committee – No news

3.3 Planning Board – Nan said that the Driveway changes and definitions passed at Town Meeting.

3.4 Forestry Committee – Arin said she discussed, with a Forestry Committee member at Town Meeting, doing a cut on the Camp Morgan property to get the ash trees and reduce density. The emerald ash borer is attacking ash trees all over town. We would like to combine efforts with them. Jed said he will talk with Larry and Steve about it.

3.5 Legislative – NHACC has sent out some information about relevant legislation.

4.0 Public Presentations and workshops –

4.1 WES visit – Arin said that she spoke to Kelli and set the date for a vernal pool presentation for April 19th. We will bring our materials (power point, games, etc) to review to the April meeting.

4.2 Cottrell Baldwin Lecture Series – Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 8:30pm, starts March 19th with the “Forgotten Forest Primeval”, March 26th – “Remember Winter”, April 2nd – “A Forest Carbon Primer” and April 9th – “The Promise of Building Big with Wood”. More information at forestsociety.org/cottrell-baldwin.

4.3 We talked about doing an Emerald Ash Borer presentation some time this summer. We will research doing this.

5.0 New Business:

6.0 Other Business:

6.1 Adopt-a-Highway Trash Pickup – Done until May.

- 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 CMPC document – We didn’t review this tonight but will do so at our next meeting. Arin will work on an accompanying map for the document.

7.0 What’s Happening in Nature?

Arin mentioned the crazy weather we have been having and winter has turned to spring very quickly. We had a very early ice out and mud season is in full force. We had some snow last weekend but it disappeared fast. We have had some 50-60 degree days. It is supposed to cool down again next week.

Jed said maple sugar season has been going OK and the sap is still running with cold nights. The season might be over soon though.

Jed said that some Canada geese flew into the pond today and he thinks there are some Mergansers swimming around.

Arin has had lots of Blue Jays sticking around.

Mark mentioned ha had a large flock of Juncos.

Jed said the Chipmunks are awake now and cleaning up under the bird feeder. Arin thinks the bears will be waking up with the warm weather and bird feeders should come down soon.

Don’t forget that there is a solar eclipse happening in April 8th! To learn more about the solar eclipse and how to watch safely, click here: NewinNature.html

8.0 Correspondence:

- 8.1 Copy of DES notice to Cote asking for outstanding items from review.
- 8.2 Copy of DES notice to Farrington, Valley Rd, Deck and dock installed without a permit.

9.0 Adjourned at 8:14 PM, the next meeting is April 10th at 7PM, at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan Schwartz, Secretary