

Whitefield Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024
Page 1 of 2

Chairman Frank Lombard called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm

Members Present: Chairman Frank Lombardi, Vice Chairman Donald LaPlante, Marcia Hammon, Lisa Courcy and David Chase and Secretary Tina Wright.

Members Absent: Marsha Lombardi

Public Present: Joe Hoffmann

Approval of Minutes : A motion was made by Marcia Hammon to approve the minutes as is from the September 6, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Don LaPlante. No further discussion all, in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

Joe Hoffmann has brought in a letter of intent to join the WCC. Tina will submit the letter with an Oath of Office to the Board of Selectmen and Joe will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Annual Report: The Conservation Commission worked on the annual report for 2023.

Railroad Update:

Back in October Don met with four members of the Railroad Commission. The path that the Commission roughed out down to the tracks, the State is considering that an active spur. There is a plan in the works for the use of it. The State will not give up ownership of the right away. Don said we cannot walk on the tracks, that we can make a path parallel to the tracks. The Commission would have to erect a 10 foot fence to keep people off the tracks and then in order to cross the tracks we would have to erect a real RR Crossing, signage and the specs on how you cross it. Culverts would need to be placed. This project would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Frank asked if they had talked to the rails to trails. Don said no. All talk of that has disappeared. Don said they will not divest themselves with that. Don suggested tabling this for now. If we can find another right of way down there then maybe. Don said they consider it an active track and if it's an active track you cannot be trafficking on it and cannot cross it.

David Chase mentioned that the Pondicherry Trail has a sign that reads keep an eye out for the possibility of a railroad track. Lisa Courcy agreed that she had seen that before too. That it's out by Little Cherry.

Don made a motion to table this, Lisa Courcy seconded the motion. No further discussion. We can open this at any other time. All in favor. No one opposed.

Don wanted to let the Commission know that he had a conversation with his daughter recently. She had just come back from a conference in Wisconsin and she has been in contact with an agency with the National Forest Reserve Commission. They give out grants for land acquisition that could potentially be used for Town Forests. He said he would get more information from her as she could put us in touch with the right people for grants from the feds.

The commission received the 2024 membership dues bill and they agreed to pay again for the year.

They reviewed several permit applications from NHDES:

- Temporary Permit for NH Renewal Power Whitefield
- Forestry Statutory Permit by Notification Map #218 lot # 7 & 48
- A request for more information on a standard dredge and fill permit application for the S136 Transmission line project.
- Shoreland Impact Permit for tax map #242 lot #42
- Alteration of Terrain Bureau Permit Application (S136 project; Eversource)
- Shoreland Impact Permit tax map # 219 lot # 031.1
- Title V Operating Permit NE Renewal Power Whitefield

Town Forest:

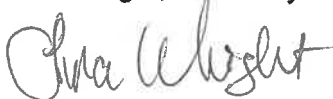
There has been no response from anyone on the Town Forest. The Commission had reached out to Jonathan Dodge in September 2023 about the lot on Boutwell Road to donate to the town for a Town Forest.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

Donald LaPlante made a motion to adjourn at 5:28, seconded by David Chase. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Tina Wright, Secretary



Frank Lombardi, Chairman

