

**Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission**

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 5pm

Present: Helen Hamman, Irwin Kuperberg, Jane MacKugler, Steven Swinburne, Mark Wright, Sunny Wright; Gary Hedman via phone call in

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:15pm
2. There were no additions/deletions to the agenda
3. The January draft minutes were approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Helen which was seconded by Jane
4. Old Business
 - a. Zoning Bylaw Amendment- The Zoning Bylaw Amendment was approved by the Planning Commission on April 28 following a public meeting held on April 17. During the Planning Commission's presentation at that meeting it was mentioned that the latest version included the long existent Conservation Overlay District, now linked to altitude above 2000 feet and that, as a part of the approval process, it added the approval of the Conservation Commission for any development that might affect the laws covering animal migration and integrated forest land. At the conclusion of the meeting the PC voted unanimously to "submit the Proposed Zoning Bylaw and written report to the Selectboard with a strong endorsement and that it be quickly adopted."

It was noted that at the 5/13 Selectboard meeting there was opposition to a number of the items in the Amendment.

- b. Forestry Plan- the plan was formally accepted and payment made out of the logging fund
- c. Williams Dam-The Committee asked the Select Board, and received, an extension on the deadline for their charge. There has been no reported activity from the Committee in recent months.
- d. Pollinator Garden-there are good signs of early growth. Mark will monitor its progress as growth begins this spring. We will also look at additional resources to add to the Prouty Land.

- e. Wastewater Project- There has been good progress lately. The preliminary engineering report was accepted by the State for the South Village. Overall interest in the systems has been high by folks from both the North and South Village since the bond was approved at Town Meeting.
 - f. Natural resources inventory-This was tabled last year. Steve made a motion for the LCC to conduct a natural resources inventory in Londonderry. The motion was seconded by Jane and approved by unanimous vote. As a starting point Irwin will contact the Guilford CC to get an overview of such a program.
 - g. Events
 - i. Three Part Series Winter Series recap- All 3 meetings were very well attended and generated a lot of interest by those in attendance.
 - ii. The following subjects were suggested for future programs: An Owl Prowl, Foxes, Foraging and Cooking Up Edible Plants (in spring, summer and fall), Intro to Our Vermont Surroundings in 4 Seasons, Climate Change by Bill McKibben, Geology of Vermont, Slow Birding. At the next meeting we will start planning the next Winter series.
5. New Business
- a. Expiring member terms- There are no member terms expiring in 2024
 - b. West River sampling- 2 new volunteers, Sam Eisenhour and Annie Bessette, have stepped forward this year to conduct the biweekly West River water sampling.
 - c. VCE pollinator program
 - i. The Vermont Center for Ecostudies is conducting a study of mammalian interactions with pollinators. They are seeking citizen scientist volunteers to contribute sightings
 - ii. Once the study is completed it will make a great future talk
6. Wildlife sightings- bald eagles, Canada geese, woodchuck, deer, snapper turtle, mergansers and mallards, sandpiper, redbreasted grosbeaks, hummingbirds, bear, turkeys, fox, wood ducks

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 20 at 5pm