

**Waterbury Conservation Commission  
Draft Meeting Minutes – 12/19/2017**

Present: Allan Thompson, Steve Hagenbuch, Joan Beard, Nick Waringa, Meg Taylor, Krista Battles,

Agenda approved. November minutes approved.

**Public**

- Alyssa Johnson from Revitalize Waterbury attended the meeting and announced the upcoming community conversation event being held on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am -1pm at the Thatcher Brook Elementary School gym.

**Updates**

**1. Planning Commission (Zoning)**

- Brandy Saxton, the Planning Commission's rezoning consultant, reworked the old zoning maps and gave a preview of her draft at their meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - o Zones renamed and definitions for each proposed zone provided
  - o Overlays were unavailable for viewing due to a technical issue
- The new zoning will bring the current zones into conformance and define how the town will continue to develop moving forward.
- Meg will reach out to Steve Lotspeich requesting a copy of the zoning map and descriptions.
- Thanks to Meg for attending the meeting and reporting back!

**2. SHWC meeting Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm**

- The SHWC partnership is entering into a new phase as partner organizations are working to raise supporting funds.

**3. Allan on WCAX Jan 9<sup>th</sup>**

- Allan will be speaking with Phil Hoffman from The Nature Conservancy at 6:30pm as part of the "Wildlife Watch" program series.

**4. New Area of Conservation Interest**

- There was discussion of a potential conservation project in the Waterbury area that would focus on land conservation for recreational usage.

**Planning for next issues; regroup**

**1. Town Plan rewrite**

- The WCC may interact with the Planning Commission regarding inclusion of the SHWC in the rezoning discussions.
  - o The SHWC can not be included as an overlay, as it is not currently in the town plan. However, there is a concern that the SHWC will be overlooked if not brought to the Planning Commission's attention.
  - o Allan will contact Steve Lotspeich on the Planning Commission regarding the inclusion of the SHWC in the zoning revision discussion and in the coming town plan revision (Thank you Allan!).

## **2. Newly passed Act 171**

- States that forest fragmentation must be addressed in Vermont town plans completed after January 1, 2018. Its primary focus is on highest priority interior forest blocks.
  - o The Waterbury town plan currently has a subchapter that addresses forest fragmentation in the “interior forest” section.
- The Act seeks to limit forest fragmentation through regulatory (zoning) and non-regulatory (conservation) means.
  - o The language of the Act leaves some room for interpretation.
- May be a great benefit in the efforts to conserve the SHWC.