



The Waterbury Conservation Commission held a regular meeting on **December 10, 2024 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.**
Present: Amy Marshall-Carney, Marcy Blauvelt, Marty Johansen, Josh Lincoln, Angela Hilsman, Meg Baldor

A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 6:13pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications

- Agenda accepted as published

11/12/24 Meeting Minutes

- (Blauvelt) Motion to approve the 11/12 minutes as written. (Lincoln) Second (Marshall-Carney) the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

- No comments made
- (Marshall-Carney) shared that Monica Callan, serving as Alternate/Planning Committee, has expressed interest in working with the WCC

Budget Update and Grant Planning

- Town Manager, Tom Leitz, email supports WCC proposed budget of \$33,650 and it aligns with eligible expenses for local option tax funding (in lieu of grant monies or other sources of support for WCC work).
- WCC will build out a plan to execute and spend the budgeted funds that will be available in April 2025
- Nominal amount (\$1K) included in budget to build the Conservation Fund which is used for funding opportunities requiring a match of funds in reserve
- Association of Vermont Conservation Commissioners membership funded for 2025
- Discussion of educational needs. Some have been accounted for in the WCC budget, others have not.
 - Waterworks and higher elevation unauthorized trail cutting and access jeopardizing Town water source with increased erosion, streambed destruction and increased water flow rates contributing to flood risk.
 - Partnerships in education possible with partners such as Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor (SHWC) Partnership
 - Implications of water source destruction include shut down of Waterworks creating minimum \$1000/day to operate Town wells
 - High elevation unauthorized access risks damage to connected natural community, sensitive habitats and wildlife impact
 - (Marshall-Carney) connecting with UVM Graduate students, State Forest Parks and Recreation personnel, Brad Greenough, State Lands Forester and Walter Opuszynski, Outdoor Recreation Specialist as subject matter experts
 - 1st quarter of 2025 will be focused on establishing educational Goals, Objectives, Tactics and KPIs
 - (Hilsman) discussed Promotion including putting money behind your content. Promotional activities would be a budgeted item.

- (Hilsman and Lincoln) shared organization promotional experience and expertise.

Grant Planning

- 'List of Grants' document shared. (Hilsman) researched and populated many new grant's information, and discussed the grant opportunities that were identified as potentially most salient to WCC projects. This is a planning document that the Select Board has indicated an interest in understanding.
 - Recovery Land Acquisition Grants (Lincoln assigned)
 - Waterbury 'cornfield' land acquisition and broader survey of land to Farr's field. Possible grant monies for flood mitigation?
 - (Vigdor) in other meetings mentioned walking trails
- (Hilsman) also pointed out the Traditional Conservation Grants as potentially most interesting to the WCC efforts

Municipal Plan Chapter 7, 8 & 11 Progress Review

- (Marshall-Carney) Due to limited individual capacity, requested assistance from members to review each chapter and provide feedback.
 - Motion by (Marshall-Carney) to print and email chapters. Seconded by (Blauvelt).

Hope Davey Update

- (Marshall-Carney) shared historical emails from municipal managers informing the status quo.
- Discussion of Town Plan report recommendations for delineated Class II wetlands at the entrance to the natural area/disc golf course
- (Marshall-Carney) shared most recent stone pathwork and cutting in the delineated wetlands.
- WCC position to protect Class II wetlands by minimally following Town Plan recommendations.
- Awaiting response from Town Manager.

Action Items

- (Lincoln) Look at grant process, timelines, eligibility Habitat Conservation Plan/Land Acquisition.
- (Marshall-Carney) Look at Conservation Planning Assistance Grant regarding Natural Communities
- (Marshall-Carney) to print chapters and follow-up materials and send to (Johansen) and (Baldor); all others will access the content either through the Town's website or the WCC's working draft.

Adjournment

- SAVE FOR JANUARY 2025 MEETING: (Marshall-Carney)
 - Town Meeting Preparation, Annual Summary and Plan, Financials
- SAVE FOR FEBRUARY 2025 MEETING: (Marshall-Carney)
 - (Marshall-Carney) to facilitate an Annual Strategic Session with focus on establishing - Goals, Priorities, Success Measures, High Level Implementation Plan and Suggested Quarterly Milestone Plan
- Motion to Adjourn (Baldor), Second (Blauvelt).
- Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm