



The Waterbury Conservation Commission held a regular meeting on **November 12, 2024, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.**
Present: Amy Marshall-Carney, Marcy Blauvelt, Malachi Brennan, Marty Johansen, Josh Lincoln, Angela Hilsman, Rachel Campbell

A quorum was established. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Agenda Review & Modifications

- Agenda accepted as published

10/8 Meeting Minutes

- () Motion to approve the 9/10 minutes as written. (Marshall-Carney) Second, the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

- No comments made

Guest Presentation - Jens Hilke VT F&WD

- Reconnecting the Greens Effort:
 - State and Federal effort underway to redesign the Sharkeyville Culvert under I-89 in Waterbury. Current culvert is narrow and very long, only has had a single mink access it, but lots of wildlife moves nearby.
 - Currently applied for \$25M grant—maybe the most significant investment in the eastern US for wildlife connectivity, create a 60’ arch. Will know Dec 1
 - Pineo Bk, will be enlarged at end of service for flood improvements, not as ideal for investment in wildlife.
 - Little River shelf has been very successful moving wildlife, but at the edge of the block so less pivotal to corridor.
 - Understands that we will be revisiting our zoning soon, and it is currently 10 ac large lot zoning, not real focused conservation zoning.
 - When we do rezone, and if Sharkeyville goes forward, should consider that area for conservation zoning.
 - If it goes forward, culvert has more benefits than wildlife—far more resilient to increased rainfall.
- WRMU LRP
 - Discussed our comments to the LRP
- Town Plan/Bylaws
 - Jens advised on Town Plan + Bylaws process – focus on education and planning first, rules and regs separate
 - Town Plan maps:
 - Have *multiple* natural resources maps—don’t try to do it all in one, have detail maps and big pictures
 - Give thought to *future land use* map, do not have it in sync with the current zoning, but be proactive to anticipate.
 - Focus on transportation chapter as well. Ensure culverts are not replaced in-kind. Standard is 1.0 bankful width which also provides dry ground passage for terrestrial animals during non-flood times.

- NR Inventories
 - “Finding out more about something related to the natural world”
 - VCD has statewide prioritization (i.e. Shutesville is very high relative to others), but field work is far more detailed data. State mapping is often very general, inventories tell you more.
 - Gold standard—wall to wall natural community map over the whole town, gives a better sense of what is priority/rare/sensitive and what areas that could handle development better.
 - \$15-30k+, Arrowood, Jessie Moore (Native Geographic), Bret Ingalls.
 - Muni planning grants are the best option for support
 - Combining multiple towns is a possibility and has been used/helpful in the past. Stowe/Duxbury potential partners.
 - Can be a difficult process lining up all the support and the consultant. Hinesburg got all the town commissions on board before issuing RFP.
- Webinars
 - VCD video library of all of Jens’ webinars on F&WD Community Wildlife Program site.
 - ELT (Environmental Leadership Trainings) offered as well. Next class in the spring.
 - Also continue to reference the Conservation Commission handbook.

Grants

- Amy developed grant spreadsheet to track potential opportunities, will send around, looking for help populating.

Town Plan

- Plan to review other draft chapters and identify areas for easy suggestions, focus on Chapter 7, 8, and 11.

Adjournment

- Upcoming meeting reminder - December 10th