

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 15, 2022; 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Attending: Phil Huffman, Bob Cook, Leo Laferriere - Vice Chair, Curt Lindberg - Chair, James Donaldson, Bruno Grimaldi - Treasurer and Ted Joslin, Acting Secretary

Absent: Chris Loomis, PJ Telep

Others attending meeting: None

1. Welcome, introductions, review of Agenda.
2. Public Input. None.
3. Reviewed and approved the July 18, 2022 minutes. Bruno Grimaldi moved for approval, Leo Laferriere seconded and the Minutes were unanimously approved.
4. Wu Ledges Town Forest: managing public access.

· The next steps to be done at Wu Ledges postponed at this time.

The Scrag Mountain Town Forest

· The culvert issues at Scrag. How to handle the present drainage culvert issues at Scrag are again postponed subject to further investigation as to how to properly handle any changes or improvements.

5. The Virginia Farley Memorial.

· Phil Huffman gave an update as to the status of the Farley Memorial Committee's July 22, 2022 meeting that was held by ZOOM. They are working out a budget and plan to hire a landscape architect to lay out a proposed monument site, path trails and parking. The rough budget is \$35,000 to complete the project with an attempt to create an endowment to manage the property in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000. The next time we have a meeting, Phil will try to have an itemized budget. Donations of \$8,000 have already been raised to date.

Curt pointed out that this is a lovely site and that the knotweed crew has been putting in work trying to handle the knotweed situation there and pointed out that there is also a significant honeysuckle infestation.

6. Financial Matters

- For our annual account, we have \$5,000 to spend so we should confirm plans on how we want it spent. The Invasive Species Reserve Fund of

\$10,000 is supposed to be spent 75% on knotweed and 25% on emerald ash borer. Based on a motion by Phil and seconded by Bruno, it was unanimously agreed that Curt and Bob would be responsible for overseeing the expenses being incurred for knotweed management and reporting those expenses to the Selectboard for approval.

- The CD at the Northfield Bank is up for renewal. Bruno recommended that we go with the 12-month-flex CD which pays 0.5% interest, allows a one-time withdrawal, and can be terminated at any time. A motion was made by Ted, seconded by Leo and it was unanimously agreed that we should go forth with the 12-month-flex 0.5% CD.
- There is \$3,705 to be withdrawn from the Scrag Mountain Town Forest Fund account to repay Fund 23

6. Other Business

- James advised that our pending grant for the Scrag trails is still under review. Phil noted that we are not alone in not hearing back regarding grants.
- Curt gave an update on knotweed activities and provided the members copies of “Knotweed in the Mad River Valley Midsummer Report” that was circulated with the agenda. He also noted that American Flatbread provided a party for all of the knotweed volunteers.
- Leo gave an update on the ARPA meeting he attended recently. He will be looking for ideas from the various towns for help on how the money should be spent. The ARPA Committee will be meeting on September 13 to discuss these matters and members may want to attend to add their thoughts as to how funds should be used.
- Bob - dog ordinances - Fred and Bob met to discuss this matter and Fred said Jordan and he also had a discussion about a possible dog ordinance.
- Bob - At the July 12 Mad River Valley Recreation Path meeting there was discussion about kiosks, maintenance and funding for a new kiosk. Bob recommended an additional kiosk for Wu Ledges.

7. Executive Session

Bruno moved to go into recess and go into Executive Session, Leo seconded it and it was unanimously approved. The Commission went into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

After discussion, Leo made a motion to go out of Executive Session, James seconded and there was unanimous agreement. We came out of Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. with no action taken.

8. Adjournment

- There being no further business, Phil moved to adjourn, Bruno seconded and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ted Joslin, Acting Secretary