

## Westford Conservation Commission Meeting - 2/4/09

Attendees: Chris Dawson, Patrick Haller, Patricia Hechmer, Chuck McGill, Mike Nelson, Sarah Pinto, Mark Peloquin, Mark Winer

### Conservation

The overlay map showing Westford's agricultural land, unfragmented forest, and wildlife corridors is complete. A legend will be added to describe the map's layers. The map will then be input to the Town Plan and informational pamphlets created.

A resource guide has been compiled for landowners looking for technical and financial assistance regards natural resources on their property. The conservation committee is reviewing the guide for possible additions and to familiarize themselves with the programs.

The committee is requesting Jens Hilke of VT Fish and Wildlife provide training on how to best engage landowners regards conservation projects.

### Trails

The committee is working on applying for feasibility grants. These are a type of "pre-grant" requesting funds to assist in understanding how to go from the vision to the work necessary to complete a project. Feasibility grants help provide the data and language necessary to apply for larger grants. There is no updated status to report on the VYCC grant.

The final piece of the project to name the school trails is expected by the March meeting. Signage for the school trails is ready to post. These first signs will be trail etiquette signs.

The committee is working on planning activities to introduce more folks to Westford's trail system. A first event will probably take place around Memorial Day week-end.

Work is planned to begin blazing the Seymour Trail.

### General

Officers elected for the coming year –

Chris Dawson, president

Sarah Pinto, vice-president

Mark Peloquin, treasurer

Patricia Hechmer, clerk

Sarah Pinto – chair of trails sub-committee

Mike Nelson – chair of conservation sub-committee

The commission's Stewardship Program has been in place for one year. Mark Peloquin has been conducting site visits to assure designated open space easements are undeveloped. Some very old structures have been found at one site. Photographs of this site will be taken when the snow is gone. The process of reviewing open space easements will be repeated every two years.

The conservation commission is planning a series of inserts on invasive plant species to be submitted to the Westford newsletter. The goal is to increase awareness of invasives and to request feedback to the commission on the location and extent of a select group of invasive species.