

Westford Conservation Commission - Meeting Minutes 9/23/09

In attendance: Chris Dawson, Joel Fay, Patricia Hechmer, Chuck McGill, Earl Mongeon, Mike Nelson, Mark Peloquin

The Commission welcomed new member, Earl Mongeon. There remains one open seat on the Commission.

Chris Dawson reviewed the history, programs, and organizational structure of the Conservation Commission. Our agenda is to serve the residents of Westford by finding out what the community values and engaging in projects that support those values. Surveys show residents are concerned with conserving open land for multiple uses. The Commission has two sub-committees, one dedicated to trails, one to conservation.

The Commission was asked to review use of the word "shall" versus the word "should" in the Natural Resources sections of the Town Plan draft. The Commission's recommendations will be relayed to the Planning Commission by Mike Nelson.

The Commission used the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife as its source for defining unfragmented forest. Resulting maps using this definition have a buffer zone of 100 m (~300 ft) either side of any road. The Town Planner can adjust these buffers as necessary, but is asked to review changes with the Conservation Commission before including them in the Town Plan.

In conjunction with Westford Library, the Conservation Commission is sponsoring Vermont Earth Institute's "Discovering a Sense of Place" discussion series. This will start in early January.

Mark Peloquin will coordinate Green-up Day.

Because of the very wet summer, Joel Fay reported that trail maintenance was basically limited to the school trails.

There is a concern with logging on Machia Hill causing soil erosion. Residents with this or similar concerns are asked to report them to the Zoning Administrator.

