

Westford Conservation Commission (WCC) - 5/26/10 Mtg. Minutes

Attending: Joel Fay, Patricia Hechmer, Chuck McGill, Mike Nelson, Mark Peloquin, Sarah Pinto, and special guest Erin Peacock

Erin Peacock, a recent UVM graduate, will be working with the WCC to as a volunteer until her Peace Corps assignment later in the year.

A second trail outing/clearing day focused on the Schulz trail has been tentatively set for Sunday, June 20th. The public will be invited to participate. The plan is to meet at the Machia Hill trail head at 10 am and bring shovels, hand tools, and gloves to assist in digging water bars and clearing debris. The event will be announced in Front Porch Forum.

The Selectboard forwarded the Budell's site plans for a water bar across the Goodrich Trail and carpeting to smother invasive goutweed on the Schulz Trail. The WCC does not approve of any resident's independent work on a trail. It sets a precedent that may have untoward consequences. The WCC's concern will be brought back to the Selectboard by Sarah Pinto.

Members of the WCC will join the Selectboard on 5/27 in reviewing the Goodrich Trail from its Rt. 15 side.

Water needs to be channeled to prevent erosion on the Schulz trail. The work requires the Selectboard's permission.

The WCC will set up a table at this year's Farmers Market. The goal is to provide information on COVERTS, (VT Woodlands for Wildlife Program), invasive species, and the Town's trails, and to answer any questions residents may have on conservation programs. The WCC will purchase a banner to alert people to our presence.

The WCC will sponsor another Storywalk on the School trails. The stations plan to be erected on July 17th. Mark Peloquin will contact the school principal for permission. Mike Nelson will contact Ben and Jerry's to see whether they will donate ice cream for the event.

MarkPeloquin has prepared a letter to owners of open land regards the Town's stewardship program and periodic review by the WCC steward to assure no structures have been built on designated open land.

The Milton Design Review Board has issued a June 24th continuance on the proposed project to build parking lot access to the Bove property.

The WCC and Westford Library are hosting a hands-on demo of a river watershed system and a discussion of how culverts affect fish passage to and from the Brown's

River. Representatives from VT DEC River Management Program and US Fish & Wildlife Service will present the program on June 30th, from 7 to 8:30 pm. at the Westford Library. The program is appropriate for adults and children grades 5 & up.

Sarah Pinto will follow up with Mike Snyder, Chittenden County Forester regards performing a site review of the school property and advising on a forest management plan. Rebecca Roy, Westford resident and VT coordinator of "Project Learning Tree" is interested in involving the school's students in some way.