

Approved 8/4/2022

Minutes
Weston Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
Weston Town Office
June 2, 2022

Present: Deborah Hennessey (Co-chair), Andrew Harper (Co-chair), Don Hart, Marisa Bolognese, Ken Hall

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Deborah at 7:00.

Deborah asked for someone to take the minutes. All but Ken declined.

There were no requested changes to the agenda and no members of the public were present.

February 2022 Minutes – Motion by Andrew to approve, seconded by Marisa. Passed, with Don and Ken abstaining. Ken asked about the November minutes, which were posted as approved but, according to the minutes just approved, had been tabled. Deborah will find clarification.

Bee the Change – Deborah reported that, due to the popularity of the program and limited manpower, Bee the Change was limiting its wildflower plantings to one site per town this year. The site chosen in Weston is the solar field at the Colonial Inn on Route 100, south of the village. Timing of the work is uncertain but they hope to begin in late summer or early fall.

Don asked about legal arrangements, waivers, etc. between private property owners and the Bee the Change program. Deborah said she would look into it and report back.

Ken asked if there was any more involvement of the commission beyond this point and Deborah said there was not.

Deborah will insert the addendum noted in the November minutes into the record.

National Forest Service Plan CCC Trail – Andrew had nothing new to report.

Ken asked where to find the documentation for this project, including sign approval. It was suggested that the documentation should be part of the record and brought to the next meeting.

Andrew asked that the sign be paid for using the Perry Neff Conservation Fund and that it be an agenda item at the July meeting.

Turner Road Trail Prospects – Andrew reported that he is planning a volunteer work day on the trail but wasn't sure when it would be scheduled. Ken and Don asked if the work had been approved as required. Andrew said he had the selectboard's permission. Don asked if anything was in writing. Andrew said it was not.

Old and New Business

Vermont Statutes for Conservation Commissions – Ken handed out copies of Title 24, Chapter 118, §4501-4506, the enabling legislation for conservation commissions, for discussion.

Open Meeting Statutes – Ken distributed copies of 1 V.S.A. §312, Vermont's Open Meeting Law, and Act 78, authorizing temporary Open Meeting Law procedures in response to COVID-19, and pointed out potential violations.

Ken said that any member of the public could file a complaint over this kind of thing and it would be much harder to deal with. He suggested that the commission address the issue now and at least adopt a policy to ensure that future violations do not happen.

Ken asked that the issue be addressed before a resident filed a complaint and was told to put any complaints he had in writing.

Ken motioned to adjourn, Don seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50.

The next scheduled regular meeting is July 7.

Submitted for the record by Ken Hall