

CORRECTED DRAFT 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, since our Secretary Ann Degan had recently retired from the WCC. Ken volunteered.

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.

National Forest Service Plan CCC Trail – Andrew had nothing new to report. Ken asked about the purpose of the .25-mile trail. Andrew said it was to provide access to and education about the old CCC camp and to promote recreation.

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.

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.

Open Meeting Statutes – Ken passed out 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. He referenced conservation commission agendas that (he believed) had not been posted at all, as well as agendas that (he believed) had not been posted in enough locations. Ken then stated that 11 meetings had been held remotely, on Zoom, with no provision for public participation, saying he had wanted to join the February and March meetings but could not. (In fact there was no March meeting.) (In fact, from mid-January 2022 thru June 2022 there was only one remote Zoom meeting on February 3, and one in-person meeting on June 2). After questioning Ken on the matter Andrew stated that if Ken had honestly wanted to call the WCC's attention to what he thought were violations of the Open Meetings regulations he could have contacted any member of the WCC or the Town Clerk's office for information. But he had made no effort to do so. Andrew also assured Ken and Don that the WCC was NOT making any conscious attempt to flout or avoid observing the Open Meetings Statutes.

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

The next scheduled regular meeting is July 7.

Submitted by Andrew Harper