Town of Weybridge Conservation Commission (WCC)

Minutes for the Meeting called for:

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. EST

On Zoom, with Public Access available at Town Clerk’s Office
(1727 Quaker Village Rd, Weybridge, VT 05753)

Minutes

1. Gioia called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Gioia reviewed the agenda; members offered no amendments or additions.
3. Minutes from the two previous WCC meetings held January 18, 2023 and April 27, 2023 were unanimously approved by attending members with the following amendments:
	1. January 18: with amendment to clarify discussion at February select board meeting.
	2. April 27: with amendments proposed by Gioia.
4. Gioia summarized her presentation to the Planning Commission regarding the WCC’s Vision & Values Statement. Following the Planning Commission discussion, Gioia recommends the WCC build on the Vision & Values Statement by clarifying the WCC’s function more formally. **John will draft an updated statement that incorporates an articulation of the WCC’s function**. The WCC agrees that its function is to advise the Planning Commission on use of the Town’s conservation fund, which should include the creation of general guidelines for use of the funds as well as suggested prioritization of projects.
	1. The Commission reviewed the relevant section of state law: 24 V.S.A. 4505 Chapter 118. Barbara called the commission’s attention to clause (9).
	2. **Gioia will ask the Town Accountant to create a report at the end of the FY about the Town’s conservation fund.**
	3. **Gioia will share a copy of the WCC’s historic/former mission statement with commission members.**
5. Update on status of items discussed in past meetings and requested
	1. Outreach: Carolyn reported on attending the Japanese Knotweed Mitigation training by the Pulp Mill Bridge organized by Fran Putnam.
		1. Carolyn stressed that the Commission is actively seeking resident ideas for the Commission to take on. **Carolyn will follow up with Fran to invite her to a future WCC meeting to learn more about her hopes regarding the Commission’s actions on invasive species.**
	2. Commission members reflected on the walk with neighboring CCs in the Lemon Fair watershed district and discussed next steps about a regional CC forum or gathering. **Gioia will let Cornwall CC member Katherine Branch know that the WCC doesn’t have the bandwidth this summer to support event planning but sees value in a low-agenda fall gathering that promotes connection and during which each CC reports out on progress and learnings.**
	3. Commission members offered preliminary agreement to join a watershed mapping project and grantseeking opportunity led by ACRPC. **Gioia will reach out to ACRPC Katie Raycroft-Meyer to offer the WCC’s support.**
6. **Gioia welcomed new Commission member Alison Nurok and will follow up with the town about a formal appointment.**
7. Other Business
	1. Commission members agreed to scheduling ongoing WCC meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office with a Zoom access link. Summer 2023 meetings will take place June 21, July 19, and August 16. **Gioia will work with the Town Clerk to publicly warn said meetings.**
8. Gioia adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.