

Topsham Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting Minutes Approved 03/03/23

Monday Feb 6, 2023 at 5:30 pm

In attendance: Audie Arbo, Shana Stewart Deeds, Julie Erdman (Town Planner), Victor Langelo, Steve Pelletier, Raija Suomela

I. Approval of Jan 10, 2023 minutes.

This agenda item was tabled, because minutes need to be written by someone in attendance.

II. Appointment of Chair and Secretary.

A. Check in about community interest in joining the TCC

A motion was made by Victor regarding TCC officers that was seconded by Steve:

Victor, chair one more year

Shana, secretary – Audie is backup

The motion passed unanimously.

TCC should think about someone to be co-chair with Victor this year (chair-elect)

Discussion of community interest was tabled.

III. Work Plan for 2023

A. Check the 2022 Action items copied to the 2023 Google Drive folder and remove any from this list that are completed

B. Transfer Goals from 2022 plan and adjust priorities.

C. Assign members who will lead each task.

TCC reviewed and updated the internal work plan for 2023.

IV. Updates

A. Landscape ordinance suggestions:

All TCC members should review this and the RFP edits prior to the next meeting.

B. Review Market Basket landscape plan

We reviewed this plan after the fact, it would have been good to be in the loop beforehand.

C. Energy committee is looking into industrial electric mowers funded completely by GoPif

- D. Victor will talk to Kevin Doran to see if he still has interest in Tree City USA certification for the Town.
 - E. Steve has been talking with the Southern ME Collaborative on the community science monitoring network, nothing north of Freeport yet, he will let us know if we can move forward with one in Topsham
 - F. Victor updated us on the Merrymeeting Trail rail use advisory process, next steps are cost estimates in April that will look at the costs of a trail vs railroad revitalization
 - G. Active transportation plan feedback was needed by Jan 30th DOT has a transportation plan with 5-6 sections, there's an active transportation section for walking/biking/etc. BCMaine is hosting a presentation Feb 15th on it. The ATPanner from MDOT will be there.
 - H. Victor may have a conflict for the June meeting.
- V. Items for upcoming meetings - table
- A. NAP RFP review over email between now and March meeting, get RFP out by April
 - Focus on deliverables and be sure they match scope of services
 - Budget updates
 - B. Landscape ordinance language to Re-Code efforts
 - C. Head of Tide monitoring
 - D. Work with BTLT to identify potential Vernal Pools where the SAMP could be used.

Motion to adjourn made at 7:08 pm by Victor that was seconded by Steve.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Shana Deeds.