

Topsham Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting Minutes approved 04-10-24

Monday March 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Topsham Town Office. Meetings open to all.

Attendees: Angela Brewer, Shana Stewart Deeds, Chris Dwinal, Julie Erdman (Planning Director) and Victor Langelo

I. Approve Feb 5, 2024 meeting minutes.

Chris made a motion to accept the minutes as written, which was seconded by Victor. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Discussion with Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) of West Bay Bridge Rd parcels, R11-007 and R11-008. Steve Walker, Executive Director of BTLT

Steve requested a letter by the TCC supporting this purchase. They are applying for a grant to cover part of the cost. Victor will draft this letter and circulate to TCC members via email.

III. Open Space Outreach.

A. Review open space materials.

TCC members should review these materials for outreach and education on open space. The goal is to help us get community support for the NAP update, and for Topsham community members to better understand the importance of open space, and any future recommendations for changes to its protection down the road. Julie is able to help us add a new page to the Topsham webpage when we complete these materials. Folks should look for images to use. After reviewed, Victor will send to Julie to update the webpage.

IV. Finalize 2024 work plan.

This agenda item was held for the next meeting. TCC members should review this work plan.

V. Schedule for visiting "Town Forest" property off 122 West Merrill Rd off 196 during vernal pool season.

This will take place at our next meeting in lieu of a meeting on 4/1. Part of this property walk will be to look for any sign of vernal pools. Victor will invite Steve to this meeting and is willing to meet and carpool. Victor will ask Steve for permission to cross his property in order to access the parcel.

VI. Updates

Victor and Julie gave the following updates.

- A. Topsham CAP outreach.
- B. Lisbon trail news.
- C. Workshop with Planning Board on rural zoning.

Victor will attend the planning board meeting upcoming about changing the ordinance language about deed restrictions held by HO associations.

- D. Julie is leaving Topsham to go back to Brunswick, Derek is also leaving Topsham.

The Topsham Conservation Commission is very willing to help the Town with the process of hiring new planning staff.

- E. Eagle River

Victor will draft a comment letter for the TCC to review before sending to the Planning Board about the Eagle River subdivision that includes our support for safe pedestrian (walk/bike) trails or sidewalks that include connectivity, and, whenever possible, to other neighborhoods or recreational amenities

- F. Shana reviewed the white oak tree watering schedule for the Chris Cole's memorial tree at the library

Here is the Tree Watering Schedule – Shana will email details

April – Shana

May – Angie

June – maybe Audie can do June?

July – Victor

August – Chris

September – Open

October - Shana

VII. Items for upcoming meetings – meetings are the first Monday at 5:30 unless otherwise noted

- A. Don't forget to check the action items list and mark items as 'done' when completed
- B. Head of Tide and Rogers Property monitoring - coordinate with BTLT - Fall
- C. Work with BTLT to identify potential Vernal Pools where the SAMP could be used
- D. Joint meeting with Brunswick Tree Committee
- E. Potential meeting with Brunswick Climate Action Plan Committee
- F. The next Brunswick climate action input meeting is Th 3/7 at the Coffin School