

Topsham Conservation Commission
Minutes
approved at the 05-12-20 TCC meeting
March 10, 2020 at 5:30-
Town Office

In attendance: Andrew Deci, Shana Stewart Deeds, Victor Langelo, Steve Pelletier, Raija Suomela

I. Approve minutes from Dec 10, 2019 and Feb 19, 2019.

Motion passed unanimously to accept minutes with discussed changes after being moved by Steve and seconded by Victor. Raija will revised Dec. minutes and Shana the Feb. minutes. Both will work on the plan for the year. This 2020 Planning document will be reviewed by TCC members prior to the next meeting.

II. Planning for native plant sale(s).

Discussion of the TCC initiative to have native plants at spring plant sales. The goal is to promote native landscaping and education about native (and invasive) plants. Raija is taking the lead.

a. Publicity.

b. Source of plants.

We will all try to bring what we can. Victor has sweet fern and will provide a Certified Native Habitat sign. Shana will look for good info from Doug Tallamy about native organisms supported by native plants and sensitive fern. Raija will ask if it's ok if we give away plants, or better if we charge a little and donate it to the event.

c. Coordinate with garden club.

We will partner with other existing plant sales. The Bowdoinham Plant sale in May and the Topsham Garden Club plant sale at the Town Office in June.

III. Proposed changes to zoning for Solar

There are still some upcoming workshops on this with the Planning Board. Steve and Victor are leading this initiative. The current thinking is a fee on the amount of disturbed land in areas of value designated in the Natural Areas Plan. After this discussion, Shana made a motion to table any decisions until the ordinance is in its final draft, seconded by Victor and passed unanimously.

IV. Upcoming subdivision at 569 Middlesex Rd

Discussion of what is known about this upcoming subdivision. Developer will likely sell the first lot (only needs a building permit) and use the funds to finance the rest of the subdivision in 1.5 acre lots. Development will likely be less than 3 lots in a 5 year period. The Nature Conservancy identified this area as high value habitat, and its in the focus area.

V. Updates

-Mallet woods easements. We discussed the process for transfer of ROW to Town.

-Other. Discussed the possibility of meetings moving online due to COVID19. Andrew and Rod will look into this for us.

VI. Paper Streets 21 thru 29?

Tabled until next meeting.

Motion moved and unanimously accepted to adjourn this meeting around 7:15pm.