

Topsham Conservation Commission

Minutes approved 8/7/23

Tuesday June 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Head of Tide Park Pavillion - meetings open to all.

In attendance: Shana Stewart Deeds, Julie Erdman (Town Planner), Victor Langelo

I. Approve May Minutes

This was tabled until August since we did not have a quorum.

II. Follow up of easement monitoring at Mallett Woods.

A. Addition of invasive control to Easement Document.

TCC discussed the easement visit. Anyone with photos or edits should add their thoughts to the google drive. We need to add language to allow for invasive species control.

III. Support of the Energy Committee's update of the Climate Action Plan.

TCC reviewed the draft letter that Victor wrote, Victor will send it to the rest of the TCC for review prior to 6/23. If there are no objections, he will send it in.

IV. Further suggested changes to Landscape Ordinance.

TCC folks should add any further edits to the google doc. Julie will keep TCC posted on when it should be brought to the Town to change the ordinance language to remove the invasive species suggested.

V. Discuss open space in-lieu fee in light of denser smaller housing.

A. Review history and rationale.

B. Situations where change may be needed.

We discussed potentially changing the ordinance so that fees are gathered based on the number of bedrooms.

VI. Updates

A. Public presentation on "Green Infrastructure in the Topsham Fair Mall" on June 8th from 5-6:30PM

This was a success. Steve was also in attendance. Julie gave an update on the green infrastructure that was discussed. Ideas included green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales and rain gardens. Bioswales and rain gardens seem the most likely. There was also a meeting for property owners that included discussion of reduction in chloride use on the parking lots.

B. Christine Cole memorial

The tree was planted. Julie will check with Sue regarding reimbursement to Jeanne for the tree. Shana has been watering the tree in June, Jeanne will water in July. Jeanne is coordinating a dedication in September.

VII. Items for upcoming meetings

- A. Don't forget to check the action items list and mark items as 'done' when completed
- B. Head of Tide monitoring - the invasives are not looking too bad at HoT park!
- C. Work with BTLT to identify potential Vernal Pools where the SAMP could be used
- D. Summer meeting schedule: June 20, no July meeting, August 7, Sept 11, then back to our first Monday of the month at 5:30 schedule