

Topsham Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes Minutes Approved 11/06/23

Monday Oct 2, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Topsham Town Office or via Zoom, all are welcome.

Attendees: Audie Arbo, Shana Steward Deeds, Julie Erdman (Planning Director), Victor Langelo, Steve Pelletier

I. Approve Sept 11 minutes.

Shana made a motion to accept minutes as amended during the meeting. Victor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Pleasant Woods monitoring

A. Review/approve letter to residents on easement purpose and allowed uses.

B. Review/approve letter to Topsham Housing concerning broken stormwater pipe.

Victor filled out the easement report. TCC members will review the report and provide any photos that we took. TCC will finalize at the next meeting and send a letter to residents. Once the letter is sent, Victor will replace the signs that were removed.

After the last TCC visit to Pleasant Woods, Victor sent an email regarding the erosion that we saw. A drainage pipe that carries stormwater from the parking area has separated. The erosion has the potential to undermine the parking area, and is causing healthy trees to fall into the ravine, exacerbating the erosion since the tree roots are no longer holding soil.

Victor made a motion to send the draft letter to Topsham Housing after photos are added. The motion was seconded by Shana, and passed unanimously. After TCC members suggest changes, Victor will edit the letter to residents. TCC can review the letter at our next meeting.

III. Preparation for Natural Areas Plan update

A. Factsheet on the value of Open Space.

B. Include an online survey?

C. RFP improvements.

TCC is developing a flyer to be provided at the election. Julie will be sure that it is ok to have materials available at the Nov. election.

This info will both be on the website and we will have a QR link on the materials. We are developing this flyer before the next meeting. TCC members can access the notes here.

What is open space? Audie will take the lead.

Why is it important? Victor will take the lead.

A short survey. Shana will take the lead.

The next step for the RFP is to reconnect with Judy Colby-George regarding an updated estimate. She is working with Viewshed, which Topsham engaged recently in the Coastal Communities grant process.

207.846.0757
jcg@viewshed.net
<https://viewshed.net/contact/>

IV. Fall Priorities

NAP/open space outreach before election

Budgeting

Annual Report to the Select Board

Check in with Judy Colby-George regarding updating the RFP and potential costs

V. Updates

- Revision to Mallet Woods easement.

Steve suggested putting in language during its revision to allow us to control invasive species. Victor added comments to the easement, the TCC reviewed these suggestions. The developer, Dan, is adding the additional sections to the easement. Julie can add the removal and treatment of invasives during this easement process. Once any changes occur, the easement will need to be re-signed.

- MEACC Annual Conference.

ME Association of Conservation Commissions, MEACC's Annual Conference will be on October 21, Saturday 9AM T Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. located at 23 Pleasant St. TCC members should tell Victor if they are attending so that he can RSVP with Fred.

- SB update

Julie will check with the Select Board regarding a TCC update/annual report. Julie doesn't have to submit the planning department budget info for a couple of months.

VI. Items for upcoming meetings

Meetings for the remainder of 2023 are the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm at the Town Offices or Zoom – next meeting 11/6/23

VI. 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
- C. Work with BTLT to identify potential Vernal Pools where the SAMP could be used
- D. Review the Pleasant St. letter to residents at our next meeting
- E. Julie will make sure the Town knows we want to have a poster and postcards at the election. TCC will complete the NAP/open space outreach before that.