

Topsham Conservation Commission

(TCC)

Minutes approved 11/9/21

October 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Site walk at Pleasant Woods

Meetings open to all, please contact the Topsham Planning Office if you'd like to join us.

I. Visit Town Easement at Pleasant Woods property, 37 Pleasant St.

TCC visited this site on which Topsham holds a conservation easement of approximately 2 acres. Victor will fill out the Easement Monitoring form, and TCC members will email him any notes they feel should be included. Victor added a sign, and will add a few more. The property pins were not found on this walk. Raija clipped some invasive barberry, but more barberry removal needs to be completed. Barberry, knotweed, bittersweet, and honeysuckle were noted. There is a bit of trash, but that would be easily picked up if bags were brought on the walk. There is some erosion of the nearby gully that receives stormwater, TCC will look into the stormwater plans for the adjoining property. There is a tree down on the fence behind the Williams-Cone School playground. We are wondering if the fence needs to be repaired or just removed. White oak was found on the property, which was a pleasant surprise.

II. Consideration of remote meeting policy and approval.

TCC voted to adopt a remote meeting policy. Raija made a motion, that Victor seconded to adopt the draft policy we reviewed. The motion passed unanimously, and it similar to the policies adopted by CPIC and other Town groups. It will be posted on our webpage.

III. Discussion of Open Space in-lieu fee policy.

Deferred to the next meeting.

IV. Updates

- A. Minutes from the Sept. site walk of Androscoggin were discussed. BTLT plans to open that property at the end of October. Victor made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Raija seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- B. Updates on the Topsham Meadow solar were given. Steve and Victor said that that property does not qualify for a SAMP because it is not in the development zone.
 - C. This Saturday is the MEACC conference at Curtis Library, TCC members will attend and report back to all.
 - D. ME passed a rule that all governing bodies will adopt gender neutral language, which goes into effect this month. This will include the use of terms such as Select Board and Members of Select Board and Board of Overseers. TCC already uses gender neutral terms such as Conservation Commission Members.
- V. Agenda items for next meeting.
- A. Discussion of funding and draft Open Space in-lieu fee policy. We need to update Victor's glove purchase for invasive removal to the budget.
 - B. Updates from Rod after he speaks to Judy-Colby George regarding updating the NAP data.
 - C. MEACC review/updates.
 - D. TSWAF Forestry plan updates.
 - E. Review action items prior to the next meeting!

Shana made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Victor. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shana Stewart Deeds.