

Topsham Conservation Commission (TCC)

Meeting Minutes Approved 12/08/24

Monday Dec 4, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Topsham Town Office.

Meetings open to all.

Attendees: Audie Arbo, Angela Brewer, Shana Steward Deeds, Julie Erdman (Planning Director) and Victor Langelo

I. Approve Nov 6 minutes.

Victor made a motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Shana. All were in favor, so the minutes passed unanimously.

II. Adjustments to the Agenda.

None.

III. Suggested changes to Open Space ordinance 191-18 as adopted at Nov 2 Town Meeting.

The ordinance was discussed by the TCC. Julie sent an email to the Planning Board regarding the support of the TCC in support of changes to this newly adopted ordinance that remove the language about the possibility of a permanent deed restriction under a Homeowners Association. The Planning Board is slated to discuss this in December at their next meeting. Julie will keep the TCC updated about this potential change.

IV. Finishing our outreach material and distribution plan.

We can give this to Julie to distribute after it is completed. She can also help with webpage updates. Audie is working on an open space description. We are looking at the Comp Plan for language on this.

V. Identify Comp Plan implementation strategies the CC will work on in 2024.

This is an ongoing discussion. TCC members will come to the Jan. meeting ready to discuss the priorities that we each think we can take the lead on for 2024.

VI. Updates

a. Angie met with the Select Board and was approved to join the Topsham Conservation Commission – welcome! Victor will provide access to the TCC google drive and files.

b. Brunswick is working on their Climate Action Plan and open to an exploratory meeting.

c. Brunswick's Tree Committee and Town Arborist invited TCC to join them for a joint meeting, perhaps in February.

VII. Public Comment

None.

VIII. 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 and Rogers Property monitoring - coordinate with BTLT.

c. Work with BTLT to identify potential Vernal Pools where the SAMP could be used

d. 2024 planning and review of action items. This should include the annual report to the Select Board.

Shana made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm, which was seconded by Victor. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7pm.