

**TOWN OF WATERVILLE VALLEY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES – FINAL
April 5, 2023
3PM TOWN OFFICES MEETING ROOM**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm
2. Attendees: Irit Levy, chair; Jennie Lucas, vice chair; Charles and Rebecca Hastings, members; John Recine, ex-officio, Cyndy Piekos, alternate; Paul Ricotta, alternate; Mark Decoteau, Town Manager; Deb Wenger, member of the public.
3. The minutes from March 1 were approved unanimously, as amended (Charles motioned, Cyndy seconded).
The minutes from March 6 were approved unanimously, as amended (Becca motioned, Charles seconded).
The minutes from March 13 were approved unanimously, as amended (Becca motioned, Charles seconded).
4. Privilege of the floor - none
5. New alternate Paul Ricotta was introduced and welcomed.
6. Old Business
 - a. No updates from Rick VDP re: Snows Brook project. Town Meeting approved funding for engineering of Corcoran Pond dredging.
 - b. Follow-up on construction site run-off – no update until snow melts.
 - c. Greenbelt parcel sign discussion – Steve has three mock-ups but he was not present to share them. Charles asked for a fourth option that would have the logo without the Land Acknowledgement Statement. A survey was deemed important, especially for the boundary with the large house lot.
 - d. WWTF – Mark reviewed this project – it is still at 90% engineering phase; the town is having trouble finding a vendor who can certify that their equipment can meet our EPA permit requirements. This is likely going to become a time crunch problem because NH DES has to approve the 90% phase before the final phase can begin. Any equipment/process has to be certified by State of NH and if it doesn't have that certification it has to go through a 3-6 month pilot program first.
 - e. Transfer station – Mark reviewed the status of this project. The plan has been approved by the Waste Management Bureau at DES. This facility will have controlled access with stickers, a contractor policy is still TBD. The whole area will be paved and drainage will be directed to a new retention pond. The culvert under the new access road will be a box culvert, not a plastic tube. This is the

preferred environmental option. There will be a pole shed at the new facility for some of the open dumpsters that could be repurposed down the road.

- f. Follow-up on election results re: the 13.5 acre parcel – the Town has asked town counsel to look into whether or not it could accept this parcel as a donation to the Conservation Commission from a private party.
7. New Business:
- a. Sierra Club’s “12 ways to halt climate change” – tabled until next meeting to give everyone a chance to review.
 - b. Testing for PFAs (forever chemicals) in our water – the EPA recently halved the allowable limit. Mark will ask Dylan to address this at our next meeting.
 - c. Replacing footbridge behind Snowy Owl – Irit read a report from the Town of Candia, NH about replacement of a bridge in that town. Mark said it’s more of a process than you think because DES controls all bridge construction, even foot bridges. Irit will reach out to Candia officials to find out what process they went through. Deb Wenger asked if stepping stones (like we have across the Mad River) could be an option. John suggested talking to Off the Beaten Path trail group.
8. Appointment of officers – Jennie motioned to reappoint Irit at Chair, Becca seconded, approved unanimously. John motioned to reappoint Jennie as Vice-Chair, Becca seconded, approved unanimously; Charles motioned to appoint Jennie as Secretary, Cyndy seconded, approved unanimously.

The date of the next regular meeting has been set for Wednesday, May 17 at 3pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 pm (Jennie motioned, Irit seconded).

“We are located on N’dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N’dakinna throughout the generations.”