

**Town of Waterville Valley**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES – FINAL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING - March 6, 2023**  
**1PM Town Offices Meeting Room**

Attendees: Irit Levy, Chair; Jennie Lucas, Vice Chair; John Recine, member; Rebecca Hastings, member; Charles Hastings, member; Bob Fries, Select Board member; Mark DeCoteau, Town Manager; David Britton, public; Linda Coleman, public; Brooke Wakefield, Recreation Department Director.

Irit called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

The topic of discussion was a request by the Town to endorse the purchase of the 13-acre parcel of recreation-zoned land which will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 14.

Irit gave an overview of the Commission's concerns –

- the Town doesn't have a long-term plan for the land
- the land may be contaminated due to prior use as a landfill
- the Town has stated that it may not have to follow its own zoning ordinances, therefore they could potentially propose any type of use for the parcel, not just what is allowed under recreation zoned land

John explained despite what the Commissioners may feel about the purchase, they are fielding questions and concerns from other town residents and we don't have a clear message for them about the intent of the purchase.

Bob Fries said he doesn't think we need to talk about what can be done with it now. It would essentially be a defensive purchase by the Town to prevent it from falling into private hands with an owner who could potentially develop it in a way that people in town would find undesirable.

David Britton said he wants the land to remain open and free to the public, but does not want to write contingencies into the sale. He would rather leave it up to the townspeople to decide how they want to use it, not him.

Jennie's concerns are that she wants it preserved as-is indefinitely, not "for the time-being"; and asked why the Town passed on the purchase a few years ago due to concerns of contamination, and now suddenly it's okay.

Mark said regarding the potential contamination issue more work has been done since the last time the parcel was looked at.

John motioned for non-public session at 1:44pm. Jennie seconded. All approved.

Public session resumed. Charles motioned that if the warrant article passes at Town Meeting on March 14 and the Town is successful in its purchase of the land, the Conservation Commission would take steps in the coming year to preserve it as conservation land, via a conservation easement. Jennie seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:11pm

*"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."*