

## minutes for the Conservation Commission

Monday, August 16, 2021 @ 4pm. At the Town Hall Meeting Room

1. Meeting called to order at 3:57 PM.
2. Attending: Mark Decoteau, Irit Levy, John Recine (ex officio), and Ed Lucente
3. Discussed land purchase – Mark D, lot 10-32C finalized.

The lot is currently zoned as “Village Commercial” (VC). If the commission prefers this lot to be zoned as “Greenbelt,” then we will request the change. After review, we can approach the Planning Board (PB) for a zoning amendment. If the PB denies us, we can petition for a change.

Under Greenbelt zoning, recreation uses are allowed (no buildings, except gazebos). There can be trails too, all low impact use. The Conservation Committee will review in more detail the exact uses allowed.

There is potential for its use as a retention basin for Corcoran’s Pond. We may need Rick Van de Poll’s assessment in the future. Corcoran’s Pond needs to be dredged – sooner than later since it gets more costly with time.

Approx. cost = \$600,000

The ConComm reserves the right to manage this land. Our new handbook has a section in it for us to review.

Currently, all the land from the dam, up along Mad River along Snows Brook, up to the treatment plant, is all Greenbelt. This also includes the pedestrian bridge

4. Martha and Chris have resigned – August 2021. We are looking for a town resident or two to join the CC. We spoke to Jean Dickson & Rebecca Hastings who may become town residents within a few months. Our September Wigwag article will mention the search for members.
5. Mark provided updates on the wastewater treatment plant: the town is waiting for the final EPA Permit. In the meantime, there's some good news: magnesium hydroxide has been shown to be safer for workers and the environment, and just as effective as the former treatment method of chlorine + ammonia. This is a pilot program, the results of which will be presented in the engineering report to be considered for the new treatment plant. It has saved us \$6K so far, and this means more savings in the future. As to the July rainfall, we had 8.5" of rain which alleviated the drought, but it also means more water was treated. Our water table has been stable.
6. The ConComm Observation Report is a form to use if there is a need to report a questionable activity, and then brought to the building inspector's attention – Dave Noyes. We asked about the Golden Heights construction area where trucks are driving over the drainage along the street. Mark stated there are plans to build a culvert there when the driveway gets built. Jim Mayhew (DPW) controls the road cuts.
7. Well #3 is not yet on line. The town is re-bidding on the water pipe & its enclosure this fall. There's a good chance that the work will get done before winter. In addition, there will be 2 new hydrants on the ends of the West End bridge.

Date of next meeting: October 4, 2021 @ 4pm

Adjourned at 4:39 pm