

October 4 minutes for the Conservation Commission

Monday, October 4, 2021 @ 4pm. At the Town Hall Meeting Room + ZOOM

1. Meeting called to order at 4:01 PM.
2. Attending: Mark Decoteau, Irit Levy, John Recine (ex officio, Planning Board), and Ed Lucente, Kristen Taylor (new member), Lisa Reid, guest, and Rick Van de Poll
3. Discussed land purchase – Mark D, lot 10-32C finalized.

Rick: Spoke of the lot as having a generally low topographic relief, with a low ridge next to the river leading to a basin swamp. There is potential for its use as a retention basin for dredge spoils from Corcoran's Pond, although it would be expensive to design and construct. He recommended a cheaper and potentially longer-lasting solution of treating the upstream tributaries of Snows Brook with coarse wood. He has done this with Tin Mountain Conservation Center in Carroll and Belknap Counties for several years. We voted on the need for Rick Van de Poll's assistance in researching, designing, and implementing a stream enhancement/restoration project on all tributaries above Corcoran's Pond. It was noted that Corcoran's Pond still needs to be dredged – sooner than later, probably in 2023 or 2024 since it gets more costly with time. \$700K is budgeted in the CIP for this. The town would welcome this mitigating approach since it would save us nearly a million dollars every 15 years to dredge Corcoran's Pond. This "natural" method costs ~ 14,000 per mile. He thinks we have ~8 miles to treat, although the mainstem is only about 1.6 miles in length.

Rick states that this sediment retention approach is a cheaper alternative, that the state would uphold the plan and that the Forest Service would likely support it. It is all on FS land.

This method of mitigation uses coarse woody material to slow down the velocity of the river, re-engage the floodplain, and cut down the sediment transport into Corcoran's Pond. Some engineering & spec work would be required.

Hurricane Irene August 2011 scarred our upstream trails & increased the amount of sedimentation.

How do we convince FS to let us do this? They are aware of this scenario; other mitigation plans exist. Rick will start the process & inquire.

On October 13, we can meet with the SB and ask for support for pursuing grants toward sediment mitigation- Aka stream enhancement/ restoration.

Yes, Rick is in favor of re-zoning the lot as Greenbelt, and we will bring this up to the PB in due time. More public uses, forest ecology can be accentuated here too. The lot is currently zoned as VC – village commercial.

4. Lisa Reid and John Recine will look into language in the Master Plan about the Conservation Commission and all it can include.

Lisa wants to see protection for the trees – especially now with all the construction going on in town.

Mark suggested the CC review what other towns have in their master plans - language concerning wetlands, erosion, etc.

Privilege of the floor: the wastewater treatment plan is working smoothly with the new process: magnesium hydroxide instead of ammonia & chlorine.

Date of next meeting: November 8, 2021 @ 4pm

Adjourned at 5:11 pm