

Town of Waterville Valley
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES – FINAL
January 17, 2023
3PM TOWN OFFICES MEETING ROOM

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:01pm
2. Attendees: Irit Levy, chair; Jennie Lucas, vice chair; Charles and Rebecca Hastings, members; John Recine, ex-officio, partial attendee.
3. The minutes from November 15, 2022 were motioned for approval by Charles, Becca seconded, unanimous approval. The minutes from the Dec. 9 site visit were motioned for approval by Jennie, Becca seconded, unanimous approval.
4. Privilege of the floor - N/A
5. Update on violations reported to Dir. Noyes re: sediment run-off at building sites – Golden Heights Rd reinforced their sediment containment measures along the stream and drainage swale with new silt soxx. They also improved their muddy construction site entrance and exit points with heavy grade gravel to limit spread of debris into the surrounding roadways. Cascade Ridge Rd. construction site has installed a retaining wall and added additional silt soxx barriers to control run-off. We'll keep our eye on it in the spring when the snow melts. The large house near the Green Belt parcel does not appear to have added any barriers to protect the stream across the trail, we'll keep our eye on that when the snow melts. This is the site that Rick Van de Poll said was a blatant DES violation – we would like to see it handled through local enforcement rather than reporting to the state level.
6. We agreed to continue the discussion of signs for the Green Belt parcel at our next meeting. No decision has yet been made on number, size, and location, although we are getting closer. Members discussed keeping the signs in sync with the new style that the town and resort have adopted for other signs in the village area – wooden posts with signs attached.
7. Becca brought printed examples of bear-proof trash containers, along with some pricing info. It was agreed that this is something we should present to the town/resort for implementation. The first point of contact will be with the WV Resort Association to gauge feedback/support. Becca will reach out to Wendi.
8. Jennie reported that the State of NH does have a Climate Action Plan. It was established in 2009 and it can be found on the State's website using this link:
<https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/r-ard-09-1.pdf>

Irit called attention to an actionable item in the NRI that suggests enacting a 25-foot wetland buffer and how no progress has been made with regard to this. Jennie said this exact item is mentioned in the new Master Plan (it says roughly that the state recommends 100 feet, but due to our lack of space, the NRI recommendation of 25 feet would be more suitable. So perhaps the timing is fortuitous to getting the Planning Board to agree to bring this forward to the town.

9. Other business:

- a. Becca has prepared a flyer for new construction projects regarding the importance of planting native species & minimizing lawns. Irit will ask Mark the best way to distribute this to relevant parties. Irit suggested sharing it to the Waterville Valley News & Views facebook group.
- b. Irit brought a map of the plans for the new interim transfer station access road and briefed us on the land swap with Valley Run Properties. She is concerned that the land that the Town is giving to them runs adjacent to a stream and wetlands and we should be sure that no harmful materials are stored which might leak into or contaminate these wetlands.
- c. Charles announced that Rick Van de Poll will be the guest speaker at the WVAIA annual gathering on Feb. 4.

10. The date for the next meeting is tentatively set for March 7, 2023 at 3pm.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53pm.

"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."