

Town of Webster  
Conservation Commission  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2020

The meeting of the Webster Conservation Commission was convened at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Roman. In attendance were Isabel Brintnall, Mary Jo MacGowan, Betsy Janeway, Chris Schadler, Linda Clark, Sally Embley, Dan Moran, and Susan Roman.

The draft minutes for the special WCC meeting held on December 20, 2020 were reviewed and approved.

It was reported that a 2020-2021 WCC budget request in a total amount of \$5,500 (\$500 for general administrative expenses and \$5000 for potential professional services in connection with an ongoing wetland functional assessment and protection study being undertaken by the Commission) was made to the Select Board at their budget work session by Ms Schadler and Ms Clark. It was noted that an additional invoice would be coming from GZA Environmental for wetlands assessment services. The Commission discussed the possibility of requesting an increase in the allocation of the annual Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) amount to further support the Commission's efforts toward land conservation. It was noted that some citizens have expressed interest in deeding conservation easements and also that the LUCT allocation to WCC appears to be considerably less than in other comparable towns. Ms MacGowan and Ms Embley will study the issue and present proposals for consideration by the WCC at a special meeting to immediately follow a joint meeting with the Webster Planning Board on January 16, 2020.

The Commission voted unanimously to request the Town to amend the WCC originating warrant article to permit the Select Board to appoint up to seven members and up to seven alternate members of the Commission. Ms Roman will produce a draft article to be submitted to the Town Administrator by January 27th for review by the Select Board and Town Counsel. Ms MacGowan and Ms Schadler will collaborate to produce a draft Annual Report to be reviewed and approved by the Commission at its next meeting and before the due date of February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Commission also briefly discussed the administrative topics of organizing and securely storing WCC files, the creation of an annual business item calendar, a review/revision of by-laws, a rotating secretarial schedule, all to be addressed at future meetings.

The Commission will have a joint meeting with the Webster Planning Board on January 16, 2020 to discuss the 2020 continuation of the process for assessing wetland functions and protection needs and potential codification of protections in an ordinance. The WCC will continue to plan and conduct public wetland education events, such as through publication, presentations, and field trips

The Commission discussed what was needed to complete the 2019 easement monitoring obligations. Those members who have completed monitoring on certain properties will complete and submit the monitoring reports to the appropriate organizations. Monitoring on some of the easement properties will have to await easier access conditions. In a future meeting the Commission will review its monitoring processes for potential improvements.

Ms Roman will circulate materials regarding the newly promulgated NHDES Wetlands rules and the NH right-to-know laws and will conduct a review and discussion session at a meeting in the near future.

The Commission briefly discussed having some standing agenda items for continual monitoring of matters affecting Town conservation interests such as Town enforcement of laws and regulations, State legislation, and Town public works projects. This topic will be pursued at future meetings.

The Commission voted unanimously to hold its next regular meeting on February 5, 2020 at 7:00 pm in lieu of the second Wednesday of February due to WCC work deadlines and activities already scheduled at Town Hall.

Town citizen Mr. Richard George was present and asked about the intent and expected content of any wetland and water quality protection ordinance the WCC might support. The Commission stated that while it was researching the health and functions of the Town's wetlands, reviewing other town ordinances and has chosen a template to study, no decisions had been made on specific regulatory provisions and, further, that it will be ultimately the decision of the Webster Planning Board as to whether to promulgate an ordinance as well as the specific content of any potential ordinance. The WCC will continue to work with the Planning Board on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Roman, Chair