

Webster Conservation Commission Work Session – September 4, 2019 5 – 7 pm Conference Room

Members **Present:** Betsy Janeway, Linda Clark, Isabel Brintnall, Sue Roman, Chris Schadler, Chair Members **Absent:** Nancy Rideout, Sally Embley, Mary Jo MacGowan

Chris called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm

Agenda

Discussion of the Water Quality and Wetland Conservation Plan.

1. Hiring a wetland scientist - Nancy Rendall emailed Chris and is going away till mid-September, and then she will talk by 'phone with Chris. And meet on the 16, 17, or 20th Sept.

2. Isabel has grouped the wetlands into 4 systems: Walker/Little/Couch Pond: (8): 383 acres. Blackwater River: (3): 43 acres (probably incomplete mapping); Trumbull Pond: (5):146 acres; Knight's Meadow Marsh: (3): 70 acres. (What about Ox Pond, Huntoon Bog Pond, Abby's Bog Pond, Mud Pond, and Pillsbury and Winnepocket Lakes?)

Discussion: Will a study of one system and its kinds of wetlands and their functions and values be adequate to apply that information to other wetlands of the same kinds? In other words, can the Town use the Walker Pond study as a model for the rest of Town? And how will the buffers work, and how will the slopes affect the buffers? Given a certain size and given certain characteristics, functionality and values, the buffer width required would be clear.

Isabel pointed out the difference in shrub species' values. Are there general conclusions a wetland scientist can make? WHY would one wetland need more of a buffer than another wetland?

3. Omitted from this list: Fewer than 10 acre wetlands.

4. Discussed: a. Parameters for evaluation i. Functionality ii. Values

Other

5. David Carroll talk Sept 27th at Town Hall.

6. PR for the Article: a. Grapevine: start soon. b. Letter to residents (approved by Planning Board!) Planning Board will look at this ordinance from a different point of view, zoning and planning. The CC should describe the reasons and values of wetland protections. c. Public Hearing – WCC and PB Have a wetland scientist at this meeting, to answer questions we might be unable to answer. d. Rick Van der Pol in February. e. Other

Chris closed the meeting at 7:10 pm

Minutes submitted by Betsy Janeway