

Town of Westminster

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
Open Space Committee
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TOWN OF WESTMINSTER

Minutes of Meeting – July, 20 2021 – Selectmen's Meeting Room

Attended: Jodi Snyder, Amy Tisdale Tetrault, Sue Millman, Isiah Grigos, Marie Auger, special guest Land Protection Consultant Janet Morrison, and Town Planner Stephen Wallace. Absent: Matt Landry.

The meeting started with approval of the meeting minutes for June 10, 2021.

The first order of business was hearing a presentation from Land Protection Consultant Janet Morrison. Janet gave a brief history of her work in Westminster and her current work protecting land for the Fitchburg Water Department. She explained the Chapter 61 program and how towns should deal with requests from land owners to withdraw land from the program. She also discussed the importance of having municipal funds available to purchase land for open space. She discussed the various State land protection grants and how towns like Westminster can take advantage of them. Lastly, she discussed the rules of development for protected watershed lands, which applies to a large section of land in the south of Westminster.

From there, the Committee discussed conducting some outreach to other municipal entities to garner their support for two ideas: creating a stabilization fund for land acquisition, and sponsoring a trail cleanup day in the spring. The Committee's outreach assignments are as follows:

- Agricultural Committee – Sue
- Hager Park Committee – Amy
- Crocker Pond Committee – Isiah
- Conservation Commission – Jodi
- Recreation Commission – Town Planner

The Town Planner will send out contact information for the above municipal entities and committee members will arrange to attend one of their upcoming meetings. We are hoping these entities will write a letter of support for the open space stabilization account idea.

The Committee will meet next on Tuesday night August 31, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Our special guest will be Sherri Bean, Trail Coordinator for the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Accepted
8-31-2021