

## August 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 Winchester Conservation Commission minutes

**Present:** Gus Ruth, Bonnie Leveille, Norm Sims, John Hann, Paul Hubner, Mim Johnson, Joe Faloretti, Natalie Quevedo.

**Guests:** Dave and Pat Johnson, Forest Lake Association

Meeting was called to order at 7:02PM.

Mim made a motion to appoint alternates as regular members. John seconded. Motion passed.

July minutes were reviewed. Mim made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Nat seconded. Motion passed.

### **Forest Lake Dam;**

Dave and Pat were present to do a presentation concerning the need for restoration of the Forest Lake Dam. Dave presented a slide show, **Save The Dam Project September 2020 to May 2024**. He was clear that the project began before the recent flood. The presentation showed that the dam needs to be 15" higher and needs to double in discharge capacity. The financial projection was presented.

A discussion followed. Norm introduced the concern for migrating fish and a need for a fish passageway. Dave will research the need to address this matter.

The Association will be holding their annual meeting Sunday August 22nd which will kick off a public fund raising effort to finance the project. The Association would like support from the Conservation Commission should the project require a Warrant article.

### **Forest Lake Dock;**

A lengthy discussion was held on the dock at the Forest Lake property managed by the WCC. It continues to be a focus of concern and discussion. The WCC had previously voted to remove the dock a year ago. The dock has sustained damage and the remains of the dock after the recent flood make it dangerous and irreparable. As a result, Norm made a motion *that considering the extensive damage by weather and the recent flood seriously damaging the dock beyond repair that the remains of the dock be removed.* Mim seconded. Motion passed with one objection.

Dave Johnson supported the decision on behalf of the Forest Lake Association and offered a crew to help in the removal. A date will be set for the removal of the dock.

### **Musterfield Pavilion;**

The pavilion is now complete. John said that a great deal of appreciation should be extended to both members and non members who assisted, particularly Marc Leveille and

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Ken Harvey who assisted WCC members. Natalie asked for a list of names of those who supported the project so that she could write a letter to be read at the BOS meeting.

Paul stated that he had access to a donation of two tables. Bonnie will write a letter of thanks to the donor.

**Lily Pond:**

A lengthy discussion was held concerning Lily Pond. It is currently held as a separate parcel by the WEDC. All concerned want to preserve the pond as part of the area. A conservation easement would be the best means to accomplish this goal. The WCC will speak with Mark Tigan in this regard.

**Meeting House Hill/SCA encampment:**

Gus stated that he clarified the SCA camping at Meeting House Hill. There apparently had been confusion as to why they were there as it had been thought they were camping at the Learning Center to do their project behind the Center. The encampment is all set and working out well.

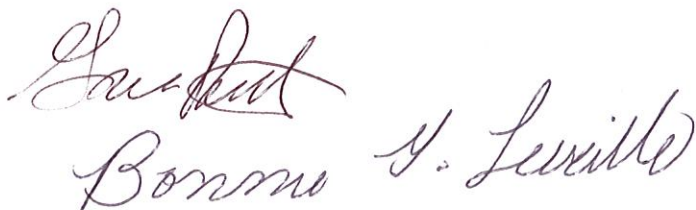
**Ashuelot River cleanup:**

Nat, as the Winchester rep for ARLAC, requested that the WCC participate in the Source to Shore cleanup of the Ashuelot on Sept 26th. She is approaching the ELM to borrow kayaks and is working with the Pickle Festival to co brand with them as well. She is attempting to schedule the cleanup later on the Sunday after the Pickle Festival to minimize conflict with the cleanup of the Pickle Festival.

Motion to adjourn at 8:55PM.

Submitted by:

Bonnie Leveille, WCC Secretary

  
Bonnie Y. Leveille