

West Windsor Conservation Commission

Ted Siegler (Chair), Bob Smith, Win Johnson, Mark Nowlan,
Barb Gerstner, Laura Stillson, Chris Nesbitt

MINUTES OF WEST WINDSOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION OCTOBER 1, 2012

Present: Ted Siegler (Chair), Laura Stillson, Barbara Gerstner, Chris Nesbitt, Win Johnson, Mark Nowland

Ted called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Agenda – no change

Approval of Minutes – Moved by Mark and seconded by Win.
Approved.

Chris Nesbitt was welcomed to the Commission and given an overview of the mission of the group, and its activities.

Trails Update – Ted discussed the joint letter to Jay Maciejowski, Forestry District Manager of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, from Glenn Seward, Selectboard Chair, and Ted as Conservation Commission Chair. This letter will serve as a written record of the Town's concern that recreational use in addition to hiking be allowed on the Little Ascutney Wildlife Management Area. The letter asks that consideration be given to a recreational corridor which we feel can peacefully coexist with wildlife management. A copy of the letter is part of the Commission's file.

Update on Bicentennial Trail – It was agreed that Ted, Win, Laura and Mark would GPS a better route for the trail sometime in October so that we can then go to Act 250. It was agreed that the new location is much better. The trail does cross State land.

Review of September 13 Joint Meeting – Ted summarized the joint meeting of the Planning Commission, Town Forest Committee, Conservation Commission and the Selectboard. The central concern was the economic development and recreational opportunities for the Town. A number of ideas were brought forth, including the Town buying the ski area and leasing it to an operator, purchasing the sewer system and Mile Long Field, establishing a conservation fund to enable the Town to purchase important pieces of property that might come up for sale, and improvement of infrastructure in order to attract businesses to Town. No action was taken.

Other Business – Discussion in the future will include: vernal pools, ridgeline construction, invasive plants, encouraging Town to mow roadsides earlier, and the Highway Department's trend to cut and widen roads.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gerstner