

Hebron Conservation Commission  
Draft Minutes September 21, 2022

Martha Twombly, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Present: Martha Twombly (co-chair), Suzanne Smith (co-chair) online, Debbie James (alt), Barbara Kohout (alt)

Excused: Paul Connor, Patrick Moriarty

Both Barb and Deb were elevated from alternate to regular member.

Martha called a brief recess. All members concurred. Martha called meeting back to order at 7:15.

Minutes: Debbie made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 17 meeting. Barb seconded. After short discussion, it was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect ideas for our booth at the Hebron Fair in 2023. All members concurred with minutes as amended.

PERMITS:

DES: Shoreland Impact Permit – Remove cabin and construct and install a new septic system. Permit has been approved with conditions, one of which is that the septic system needs to be approved by DES.

Intent to Cut –

32 Country Lane: owners Scott and Kristine Benting. Lot size 3.1 acres.

8 Country Lane: Owner John LaCarte. Lot size 1.5 acres, amount to be cut 1.25 acres. These have already been signed by Selectboard.

Charles Bean Sanctuary – Discussion of water quality where people/boats raft and hang out for the day. In Hebron this would be at mouth of Hebron Bay. Who is responsible for testing for e-coli? State tests at public beaches. Members need to research this more.

Hebron Town Forest:

Martha will write up a short article for the October town newsletter.

Boundary marking signs have arrived and a date needs to be scheduled to hike the boundaries and post signs.

Mirka Zapletel, NLRA's Education and Outreach Director, is doing citizen scientist research on milkweed and monarchs. As part of this project, Suzanne and Martha flagged 4 test plots of milkweed in the meadow accessed by the meadow walk. One parameter being researched is, are the milkweeds in Hebron in sync with monarch butterflies here. They counted number of plants, number of seed pods, whether bugs were on the plants and whether there were any chrysalis present.

Trail maintenance: With heavy rains and increased usage on the Cockermouth Ledge Trail, the slippery slope leading from the trail to the river is in need of some restructuring. This area was stabilized in the last decade, but definitely needs repair. This project is slated to be done before the ground freezes.

Meadow Walk: Members have heard from visitors how much they enjoy the Meadow Walk. It is a huge success.

Wetlands Protection Overlay District: Members began discussion of possible changes to the WPOD to be worked on by the Commission and reviewed by the Planning Board. Martha shared map which indicates currently designated wetlands and shared history of Amanda Stone's work with members.

The goal is to expand Hebron's designated wetlands covered by the WPOD beyond what was delineated by Amanda Stone in 1997.

Wetlands are delineated by engineers/developers when major permits are applied for.

Discussion was begun about how to include these in the WPOD...

Do we need to list all of those wetlands delineated by engineers/developers in the ordinance, or would it work better to set parameters so that the ordinance will apply to all wetlands that fit within those parameters.

Barb asked if we should be reviewing the applications which include wetlands delineations. All members agreed that we need to get copies of permit applications when they are submitted, not after they have been approved, especially Shoreland Permits.

Vernal Pools: Another section of the WPOD which needs review is Vernal Pools. Possibly a change in definition and possibly setbacks.

This topic will be worked on at every meeting this fall and early winter.

Barb made motion to adjourn. Debbie seconded and all concurred. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Smith, Acting Secretary