

**Webster Conservation Commission**

**14 June 2023**

**4:00 PM Town Hall**

**Present:** Chris Schadler (Chair), Sally Embley, David Nesbitt, Isabel Brintnall, Betsy Janeway, Mary Jo MacGowan

**Guest:** Bob Quinn

Agenda Item	Summary
1. Approve minutes from May	Called to order of 4:02 PM Minutes from May approved David moved/ Sally seconded
2. Bob Quinn Update on NRI Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lots of good work done by WCC working with Bob</li><li>• Bob will reconcile the lists sent by Chris and Isabel with his own lists</li><li>• Isabel compiled what we all saw during the ‘big nights’<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We are missing data on snakes</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Note: Any rainy night could still bring frog crossings – not just in April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Birding highlights from Bob’s field work<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Targeted birding – setting out looking for particular species</li><li>○ Walking sites with conservation in mind</li><li>○ Northern Mockingbird (first time he has seen in Webster)</li></ul></li><li>• Thinking about public access while evaluating town sites</li><li>• Current work is in progress and will be more widely shared when in a more complete state</li></ul>
3. Report on 5 Rivers Meeting	<p>Bob Quinn and Mary Jo MacGowan represented Webster by attending the Five Rivers Conservation Trust (5rct) planning meeting on 5 June 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning to include input from all 17 communities they serve</li><li>• Prioritization process and methods were reviewed and resulted in three themes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Theme I – Natural Resources &amp; Resiliency<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Wildlife Habitat</li><li>▪ Water Resources</li><li>▪ Climate Resilience and Diversity</li></ul></li><li>○ Theme II – Working Landscapes<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Productive Farms<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Important agricultural soils</li></ul></li><li>▪ Productive Forests</li></ul></li><li>○ Theme III (to view the above themes through these ‘lenses’)</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lens 1: Access and inclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-economic indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Income, race, ethnicity, age</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Lens 2: Recreation</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Srct hired Resilience to create a “Conservation Plan” for the 17 Town area they cover</li> <li>• Resilience created detailed Maps based on Granit (GIS) data plus information from a Survey (12 of 17 towns responded)</li> <li>• Goal is to identify conservation priorities based on themes</li> <li>• A key point is that this Conservation Plan will look “across borders” of the Towns to protect key lands/habitats</li> <li>• Parts of Webster, Boscawen, Hopkinton, and especially Salisbury, where it abuts Webster, have been identified as key landscapes</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
4. NHACC notice regarding DES rule changes	<p>Email was sent out be NHACC (resent by Chris)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please review rule changes (can be downloaded from the email)</li> <li>• Public hearing is on June 30 at 9:30 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is a hybrid hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ in person at DES in room 208C</li> <li>▪ on Microsoft Teams</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Send comments to Chris if you want them compiled into a general WCC statement or submit individual written comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ deadline for written comments is 4:00 PM, Friday, 10 July 2023</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Send written comments to: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">NH DES 54 Portsmouth Street Concord, NH 03301</p> </li> </ul>
5. Tick Talk scheduled for Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Betsy and Mary Jo will meet Kathie Fife at 9:15 AM the morning of the talk</li> <li>• Talk will begin at 10:00 AM</li> <li>• Chris will send Kathie’s contact info to MJ</li> <li>• Russ will have town hall set up with projector, etc.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Quinn suggests a field trip to Schoodac Brook/Trumbull Pond on June 21 (rain date on 24) at 8:00 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Meet and park at MacGowan’s</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Planning Retreat will be discussed at July meeting</li> </ul>
<p>Meeting was adjourned at 5: 23 PM</p> <p>Minutes respectfully submitted by: <b>Mary Jo MacGowan</b></p>	