

West Windsor Conservation Commission

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

September 6, 2011

Call to order 7:09 PM, Story Hall, West Windsor

In attendance: Ted Siegler, Cathy Boedtke, Laura Stillson, Barbara Gerstner, Win Johnson, Mark Nowlan.

Guest: Glenn Seward

Approval of July 11, 2011 minutes

Motion by Barbara Gerstner to approve minutes

Seconded: Cathy Boedtke

Vote: Unanimous

Duling Rd. – Glenn Seward looked at Duling Rd. and the town will not take action until the damaged trees fall down. Anyone wanting to cut them should contact Glenn first.

Hurricane Irene – Ted listed a number of preventative measures he felt might reduce storm damage in the future. Given that we have experienced four such storms in the past 100 years, we ought to be planning for a 1 in 25 chance that a storm of the magnitude that we just experienced could occur next year, or the year after. It was agreed that he would send these proposals to the Planning Commission for review and possible inclusion in the new zoning regulations.

- Greater scrutiny of the construction of new ponds in wet or wetland areas in our upland areas. Wetlands act as a sponge, absorbing hydraulic energy during large storm events, while ponds that are full behave in exactly the opposite way, releasing hydraulic energy as soon as they inevitably spill over their banks.
- Consideration during Development Review of the way new fields are created, requiring contouring of fields in upland areas across the slope (a common practice in the Midwest) to disperse hydraulic energy during storms rather than allowing for sheet flows down-slope.
- Increased scrutiny of the construction of driveways, especially those that climb steeply uphill to provide new properties with the ability to construct houses with good views. Now the focus is almost entirely on the intersection of the driveway with the Town road. Additional focus ought to be on how the entire driveway is constructed to assure that culverts are adequately sized for very large storm events, and that they have adequate abutments to withstand overflow. Further that driveways contain water bars when they exceed a certain pitch, and that these water bars be maintained over time. And finally, that steep driveways be constructed to reduce sheet flows and to drain to adequately sized ditches, just like our Town roads are.
- Consideration of maximum square feet of roofs before gutters are required with associated runoff to water retention devices.
- Requirements that large riding arenas and riding tracks include storm water retention areas.
- Additional restrictions on construction of buildings adjacent to streams on low land areas – even if they are slightly above the “100 year” flood plain.
- Additional restrictions on the storage of fuel oils and other potentially hazardous materials adjacent to stream banks.
- Enforcement of requirements that manure piles not be allowed adjacent to streams

- Enforcement of logging road best management practices.
- Encouragement through Development Review of expanded stream buffer areas.

Town Forest: Glenn reported that information gathered by Tii will be compiled to formulate a map and multiuse trail system and a use plan. SWCPC will do this and it will be presented at future public meetings. Ascutney Trail Association (ATA) does not wish to take over maintenance of the Bicentennial Trail. Discussion followed on who should be responsible for the maintenance. Ted will contact the Town Forest Committee to set up a work plan with them. Sue will look into any Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) grants coming up.

Bernatchez and Greenall easements: A license for the Greenall property trails was reviewed.

Vernal Pools: - Data is still being collected and will continue into the spring of 2012. Sue will collect information and file it in the office.

New Business: Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG) meeting on Sept. 15, 2011. Sue will attend and report.

WWCC Priorities

- Purchase a conservation easement for Mile Long field and the ski area. Possible VEDA (VT Economic Development Authority) involvement
- Working with the Town Forest Committee
- Finish vernal pool inventory
- Ridgeline/Viewshed criteria in town plan
- Trail easements
- Conserve town forest

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm by Ted Sieglar

Next meeting October 4, 2011

Respectfully submitted
Sue Greenall - secretary