

Chairman Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 4:28 p.m.

**Members Present:** Chairman Frank Lombardi, Marcia Hammon, Edith Worcester, Marsha Lombardi, Lisa Courcy and Secretary Tina Wright

**Members Absent:** Donald LaPlante, David Chase

**Public Present:** Elise Lawson and Joseph Hoffmann

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Lisa Courcy to accept the minutes as is from the June 9, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Edie Worcester. No further discussion, all in favor, motion carries.

**APPROVED.**

### **NEW BUSINESS/UPDATE OF NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY**

Elise Lawson was present to go over the maps that she has made.

Elise created a mini slide show to show a couple of things and give an update of what's been done and what she still wants to do.

The main reason she always goes into the wetlands is the diversity. The last Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in 2006, Weed Pond was mostly dry. This year it is very full. Assuming beavers have caused this pond to fill up.

#### **Project Milestones**

- Compile and integrate existing data
- Determine areas for field work inventory throughout town
- Collect field inventory data
  - Riparian habitat, plant communities, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and scenic views.
- Integrate data with existing GIS data
- Create maps and conduct GIS analyses
- Draft and Final reports to the Town of Whitefield
- Public Presentation.

Once done with mapping she will write the report and then get to the Conservation Commission to review.

Frank said the last NRI we had, when we had the Northern Pass coming through 10.4 miles of Whitefield they had to meet with the department of energy and when making a case they are looking for data, not an opinion. That's why the NRI is so important. We had Town Meeting votes where people said they didn't want it and petitions but having the NRI helped with that case. We need to know what is valuable to us/the Town and what we want to protect. There is Casellas, The Mountain View Grand Hotel's future and what we don't know about. The industrial park and the ongoing talks with that. The parking lot behind Cumberland Farms has more talk again. Having that paved could cause water to run off. Mentioning that area with the Johns River and how important it is to keep the vegetation along the side. Marsha Lombardi asked if the Johns River was coming back and Elise Lawson said it is in really great shape right now. Frank wondered what the difference is now with the sewer discharge and what they are saying is now being put out in that river now compared to then. Elise Lawson asked if there is any data on that. Frank said he would get in touch with the Public Works Director, Robert Larson about that information. Marsha Lombardi asked what the word is up by Presby's in the Industrial Park. Frank said we don't know this is the one Katie Kopp is working on. Elise mentioned the last time she and Frank walked how good the habitat is there. She said it starts out dry and gets very very wet.

Marsha Lombardi asked what would the WEDC possibly want to put out there.

Edie said from what the article said there are no plans. Supposedly they are spending all their money plus they hit the town up for I think \$14,000 and all this money will be used to have experts come in and tell them what would need to be done or could be done for development. There's not a project in mind but they want to be able to develop that and that they are being upfront about.

Frank said we sent an email to Katie Kopp but we did not hear anything back.

Edie said the article said there would be many many conversations with the conservation commission about that.

Frank pulled up the GIS map showing the Pondicherry Refuge. Frank said maybe we should think about doing something again out there. Doesn't mean we can't ever approach the town again and say hey we want to turn it into nature trails. We probably would get some pushback. Elise mentioned maybe a warrant article. Frank said we've done that. Elise said at least try to protect the lot that is really wet and the one below it. Frank pointed out all the wet areas on the GIS map to everyone. Frank said if we did a warrant article again not as a Town Forest but as land to be used for recreational tourism. Non motorized. Bicycling, hiking and cross country skiing. We have to think about this.

Joe Hoffman said he thinks it would be great to have a park in there.

Elise showed a quick map of the town with all the areas she has already done fieldwork.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. at the Whitefield town hall. The next field work day will be Saturday, September 24, 2022. Everyone will meet at the town hall at 9:30 a.m. Areas to look at are the parking lot behind Cumberland Farms, Industrial Park, Green Meadow Drive and possibly railroad by Hazen Road. Everyone agreed.

**Adjournment: A motion was made by Edie Worcester to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m., seconded by Marcia Hammon. All in favor, meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Tina Wright-Secretary

  
Chairman-Frank Lombardi