

Marlboro Conservation Commission Minutes for Tuesday May 26

Those Attending : Jim Irish, Adam Gebb, Charlie Schneeweis, Dante Corsano

Topics Discussed : Recommendation for interim zoning, Invasive Plant Survey, Wildlife Road Crossing descriptions

The Marlboro CC recommends that the select board consider "Interim Zoning" to temporarily protect one of the towns most precious resources, pristine stream valleys. Currently the town plan has no language that allows the DRB to consider anything ecological in the development review process. The town is unprotected and exposed. However, the Marlboro CC has done many years of surveys of the town for the purpose of ecological zoning and the efforts of the planning board continue to be significant. In Massachusetts all development applications have to be reviewed and passed by the towns CC. This is the only way to ensure that ecological values are considered when development is proposed.

Below is a passage from Vermont State law....

"If a municipality is conducting or has taken action to conduct studies, or has held or is holding a hearing for the purpose of considering a bylaw, a comprehensive plan, or an amendment, extension, or addition to a bylaw or plan, the legislative body may adopt interim bylaws regulating land development in all or a part of the municipality in order to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare and provide for orderly physical and economic growth. These interim bylaws shall be adopted, reenacted, extended, or amended by the legislative body of the municipality after public hearing upon public notice as an emergency measure. "

Our pristine stream valleys are at risk now.

The Vermont Natural Resource Council has offered to help with possible language for Interim Zoning.

Adam Gebb and Patti Smith are working on a draft, which is below.

A one year moratorium on building in the following locations.....Pristine stream valleys and associated headwater wetlands.

Holliday Brook, Heinzburg Brook, Pond Brook(between South Pond and Lucier rd and

again south of South rd) as well as the Harrisville brook ,middle and east fork (North of the College)

No structures of any kind may be built within XXX feet of the described pristine streams/wetlands for a year starting July 1st , 2015

Invasive Plants on Route 9

Japanese Knotweed infestations are mature and well established. The CC does not see that any positive outcome is possible.

Where is it realistic to make a positive change ?

1- Along Auger Hole road the Marlboro Branch at higher elevations is in great condition. We will be attempting to eliminate the small / young invasive plant patches found in the area. Further north towards the Newfane border the patches of Knotweed and Multiflora Rose are far to established to do anything.

2-Inspections of road repairs where fill is brought in can be on the permanent to do list for the CC in the 2 years following the construction. Young patches are easier to eliminate.

3- We will be inspecting the upper reaches of other town watersheds as these areas seem to hold the best chances for succeeding in keeping native plants the dominant foliage.

Wildlife Road Crossings...

#6 West of Sweeties on Rt 9

The land is forested right up the road on both sides. There's no major grade changes or guard rails. Significant conservation lands stretch to the south. To the north of rt 9 there are significant wetlands on the west side of North Pond.

Respectfully Submitted

Adam Gebb