

**Minutes**  
**Watertown Conservation Commission**  
**Lower Hearing Room**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2014**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick W. Fairbairn, Maria P. Rose, Leo G. Martin

**Commission Members Absent:** Louis Taverna, Charles Bering

**Staff Present:** Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness

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Pallotta McDermott chaired.

**1) Whitney Hill - Annual Recommendations on Maintenance and Education –  
Watertown Conservation Commission-**

Chairperson McDermott turned the meeting over to commission member Fairbairn who presented his submission made at the request of Agent Christopher Hayward on Maintenance and Education recommendations at Whitney Hill. Fairbairn's submission was structured around a research program he conducted this year with local honor students at Whitney Hill.

Fairbairn stated that the program is expected to be ongoing in the years to come. The students are classifying and enumerating samples taken from plots in their assigned work areas at Whitney Hill. The project will be used to create findings to share with the public and in particular the abutters of Whitney Hill who have the most personal relationship to the land. Fairbairn is currently awaiting commentary from the teacher of the students so that they can discuss the outcome of the work that was done and ways to improve the process for incoming students. He invited his fellow members of the commission to assist in the administration of the educational process in the future with him.

**Conservation Commission (CC) Discussion-**The commission will hold a public meeting in February or March to invite abutters of Whitney Hill to come and meet with the members of the (CC) to discuss the educational project. The findings may be shared at that meeting and discussed to gain insight into how to make the best improvements and developments in this space.

Rose, Fairbairn and the Agent exchanged ideas about structuring the report for the town council which is to be submitted by the end of December for consideration in the coming year.

The report will be restructured and submitted to town council by the end of December for consideration in the budget in the upcoming year. The report may include

recommendations for over the next five years, and if so the commission will make an annual report back to the town council who is partnering with them in this endeavor and taking an interest as this program develops into the future.

**2) Minutes of November 2014-Adopted with modifications.**

- 3) **Agent Reports-** The agent attended a ribbon cutting ceremony to give the GSA site from the Army Corp back to the DCR. The ceremony was held at the Commander's Mansion, was widely attended and a wonderful celebration. There was a discussion of the many individuals involved in this project that spanned all the way back to around 1988.

Chairperson McDermott spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony and took a moment to congratulate and thank each and every person who had been involved in this project throughout the years.

Stormwater Advisory is moving forward and making progress with the final 2 ordinances currently being reviewed. There is work being done on their web site to make it more user-friendly and community outreach efforts are also being developed at this time.

The Tree Warden planted a total of 87 trees in the November tree planting season. Another 80 trees are expected to be planted in the spring of 2015.

**4) 2015 Calendar of Meetings is adopted with one modification for September meeting.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.**