

Weston Agricultural Commission

> Tuesday, September 12, 2017

> Break Room, Town Hall

> Called to Order, 6:30 pm

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> Members Present: Anza, A., chairman, Chaplin, D., Chaplin, A., Donaldson, C., Hyde, J., clerk. Also present, Paul Penfield, RailTrail Advisory Committee

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> 1. Approve meeting minutes of April 11, 2017, with edits.

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> 2. Review of request by Weston Historical Commission for CPC funding of up to \$60,000 to reinforce the cattlepasses built of reinforced concrete in the 1920's to allow cattle to pass safely across the rail line to and from pasture.

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> AgCom asked to provide support for the request as part of their charge to educate and protect the agricultural legacy of the Town.

> Discussion of the engineering report to the WHC concerning the need for reinforcement of the existing concrete structure to prevent water infiltration before the removal of the tracks and construction of the railtrail, which would not be paid for by Eversource.

> Discussion of the design parameters, coordination with Wayland in planning to protect their cattlepass.

> Members present voted unanimously to support request for CPC funding, and chairman prepared letter to Phyllis Halpern.

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> Also noted and discussed by Anza and Hyde, after visiting the proposed trail on Labor Day, was the clear need for an improved culvert at the CherryBrook crossing of the trail, where the structure, though approved by Eversource as a sufficiently strong stone structure, is clearly too small, even in the dry conditions of late summer. The brook flow was almost at the top of the culvert, the steep banks were eroding, and the flow of the brook was seen to be greater than the capacity of the culvert to carry it.

> The AgCom agreed that the transformation of the rail line to an 'agricultural trail' would be the ideal time to correct the blockage by replacing the existing culvert with a larger one. Several members proceeded to the Conservation Commission meeting to request this change to protect the upstream properties subject to flooding.

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> Meeting adjourned, 7:30 pm

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