

**TOWN OF WATERVILLE VALLEY**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES - FINAL**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2024**  
**1PM TOWN MEETING ROOM**

1. Attendees: Irit Levy, chair; Charles Hastings, member; Becca Hastings, member; Paul Ricotta, alternate; Jennie Lucas, member; Cyndy Piekos, member; John Recine, Planning Board ex-officio; Megan Boobar, Director of Public Works; Mark Decoteau, Town Manager.
2. The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.
3. The minutes from the December 2023 meeting and the January Snows Brook site visit were reviewed and approved unanimously.
4. Old Business
  - a. Update on Snows Brook project – Rick VDP will work with Rick Landon to flag work areas and reassess tributaries in the spring and notify us of any changes from the original plan. Charles asked for assurance that the grant money is in fact secured.
  - b. The two smaller Greenbelt parcel signs have arrived. John will install one on a tree that Charles has in mind. The other will be a spare.
  - c. WWTF & Water Line project – the water line project is complete. The town has hired a new engineering firm, Black & Veatch, to take over the WWTF project. The 30% design will be done by April 2025. The transfer station will remain where it is now (through at least 2029-2030), but with upgrades to the infrastructure, due to the need to keep the sludge drying bed operational. The permits for the new access road to what was supposed to be the new, upper transfer station are good for a couple of years, so that road may still be built possibly for construction/secondary access to new WWTF.
  - d. NRI – Irit met with Mark, Steve & Rick – the NRI does not necessarily have to be updated at this time. Rick suggested taking another look at the recommendations for action in the original report and working on those. The town, along with engineering firm HEB, is looking at any culverts/drains that are in the road repaving areas and upgrading them as they do the road work.
  - e. Irit reported that Kim Rawson and her forest fire prevention program at the school does not have anything new to report, but wants to make sure we keep them in mind if any project ideas come up.
  - f. Road salt review – Jennie presented a couple of excerpts from the Town's 2022 Master Plan (page 3 of these minutes) that specifically state we should be looking at ways to reduce salt usage. Megan said cost is a big factor and that she is actively trying to find ways to reduce salt usage – mixtures, different plow blades. Charles said the various condo associations in town are also heavy handed with the salt. If we want to send a letter, it should be to the associations, not to the contractors hired to do the snow clearing. Cyndy brought up the usage of fertilizers as another item we should keep our eye on. Jennie wants to be sure the Commission stays on top of this issue.
5. Privilege of the floor – John wants to be sure the Town takes a look at the culvert at the bottom of Golden Heights Rd. that runs under Valley Road. It has been compromised.

6. New Business

- a. North County Alliance v. Casella landfill in Dalton – the Alliance is meeting soon to discuss so we will wait to hear back from them on what action we should take.
- b. Update on David Britton 13-acre land donation – the Town is having a level 1 assessment done by Monadnock Engineering (essentially a document review). The Selectboard on behalf of the Town is allowed to accept donations based on RSA 41:14-a. A public hearing is required along with letters from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission.

7. The date of the next meeting was set for April 17 @ 1pm

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

*"We are located on N'dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations."*

## ROAD SALT USAGE

### Excerpts from the 2022 Master Plan:

“The aquifer beneath private and municipal lands poses both a benefit, for water supply purposes, and a concern. With human activity comes the risk of contamination. Care must be taken to manage nonresidential use of hazardous and toxic materials and petroleum products, road salt and lawn chemicals, and to educate homeowners on the importance of keeping such materials out of the ground and water. Fortunately, the town has no industrial land uses. All commercial properties are connected to the Town sewer system. To help keep bacteria, nitrates and household chemicals out of the groundwater that provides the town's drinking water, all homes within the wellhead protection zone (400' radius) were connected to Town sewer at the Town's expense. Any home within the aquifer protection zone (1,000' radius) has Town sewer service available and is mandated to connect to Town sewer when their septic system fails. Waterville Valley also has a covered salt storage facility; however, a mix of salt and sand is used on West Branch Road and Boulder Path and straight salt on other town roads. Elevated salt levels in groundwater and surface water can have negative health impacts on both people and wildlife.”

### Action Plan from 2022 Master Plan:

8.3 Natural, Scenic and Historic Resources	Responsible Party <b>(Lead in Bold)</b>	<i>Livability</i>	<i>Safety</i>	<i>Town Tax Base/Tax Rate</i>	<i>Local Business Economy</i>	<i>Resilience</i>	<i>High Quality Community Facilities</i>	<i>Recreation opportunities</i>	<i>Natural, Scenic &amp; Historic Resources</i>
<b>Water Quality</b>									
1. Keep abreast of cost effective new technology/treatment options to replace or reduce the use of road salt.	<b>Public Works Director,</b> Town Manager, Selectboard, Conservation Commission		x	x					x
2. Continue to monitor chloride levels in surface water when using road salt.	<b>Water/Wastewater Superintendent,</b> Conservation Commission		x						x