

West Gardiner Comprehensive Planning Committee

Subcommittee B: Water Resources/Natural Resources/Agricultural and Forest Services

November 6, 2023 at 10:00

Present: Erin Small, Mike Wing and Joan Anastasio

Discussion centered around the 2019 National Land Cover data set provided by the email from Doug Rooks who is no longer a member along with Paul Okerholm on Sub Committee B.

Because the information is from 2019 some of the numbers may not be accurate. For instance, cultivated crops is listed as 1 acre but Farmer Kev on the Indiana Rd not only has land with greenhouses that extend well back towards Cold Stream but also farms another piece of land further up on the Indiana Rd with at least 2 acres in cultivation. Joan will contact him for the correct acreage.

Erin noted a discrepancy in the open water value of 6821 acres in 2019 data versus the 1990 Comprehensive Plan value of 1150 acres. In 1990 there were 77 acres in the Tree Growth Tax Relief Program and none in the Farmland and Open Space Program. Before the next meeting we will need to ask Angie if these numbers have changed.

Recreation: The town owns land on Cobbossee Stream and has constructed a public boat landing at Collins Mills. There is parking and swimming access. There is another commonly used boat landing on private property at the bridge on Bog Hill. Residents fish and swim at the different bridges over the stream (need to look up names). There are various recreational opportunities in surrounding towns and the school has a playground, soccer, basketball and ball fields.

Kendra Wakefield Shaw donated land by will to the Kennebec Land Trust consisting of 113 acres and 4000' feet of frontage on Cobbossee Stream. The Wakefield Wildlife Sanctuary has 2 eco cabins and a 1000' trail ending at a picnic area. It is suitable for hiking, bird watching, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing. No swimming is mentioned on the website, but people do swim there. Access is by Wakefield Lane off the Hallowell Litchfield Rd.

Other recreation/socialization can be had through the Rod and Gun Club, the Snowmobile Club, the Backyard Quilters, Senior lunches, West Gardiner Gardeners, and the West Gardiner Historical Society.

Next meeting tbd.

Joan Anastasio, Secretary

