



# Conservation Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Remote Participation Only

## Agenda

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, the meeting and public hearing will be conducted with remote opportunities for participation. Remote participation and access methods include:

### ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on March 5, 2025, at 7 pm. Location: Remote Participation Only
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/99597080710>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 995 9708 0710
- E. Public may comment through email: [sjenness@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:sjenness@watertown-ma.gov)
- F. Please Visit the Conservation Commission Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/199/Conservation-Commission>

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1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Information Update
    - A. New DPW Superintendent Introduction
  4. Annual Whitney Hill Abutters Meeting
    - A. 2024 Whitney Hill Park Annual Report
  5. Updates
    - A. CPC updates
    - B. Agent's Report
      - i. Ongoing site monitoring
  6. Acceptance of Minutes
    - A. February 5, 2025, Conservation Commission Meeting
  7. Adjourn



**CITY OF WATERTOWN  
Conservation Commission  
Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472**

Maria Rose, Chair  
Jamie O'Connell, Vice Chair  
Leo Martin, Member  
Rachel Danford, Member  
Patrick Towler, Member  
Jill Ayers, Member (February 2025)  
Marilyn Salvias, Member

TO: George Proakis, City Manager, and the Honorable City Council  
FROM: Katherine Swan, Conservation Agent, and Watertown Conservation Commission  
CC: Patrick Fairbairn, Steve Magoon  
SUBJECT: 2024 Whitney Hill Park Annual Report  
DATE: February 18, 2025

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**Whitney Hill Park Annual Report, 2024**

**Background**

On 8 January 2013 the Watertown Town Council, by unanimous vote, adopted Resolution No. 3 (R-2013-31), A Resolution Preserving the Property Known as Whitney Hill Park. The resolution directs the Watertown Conservation Commission (WCC) to submit "...a recommended plan for maintenance and educational activities" for Whitney Hill Park. It has proven useful for the WCC to draft and approve the final text of this report in time for its February session, after which it is disseminated not only to the relevant City officials but also to Park abutters for general public discussion at the WCC's regular March session. For a comprehensive long-term outline of the WCC's response to this directive, see Appendix A herewith, Whitney Hill – A Proposal for Development of a Stewardship Plan.

**SUMMARY**

**Activities in 2024**

- In May, our chair volunteered with the Watertown Community Foundation Watertown Helps Out event to help clean up within the Park.
- In June, the Student Conservation Association (SCA) canceled the proposed work of construction of the box steps at a steep section of the main trail due to staff shortages and low student enrollment.
- Prepared a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Woodland Management Plan. The RFP was drafted by a subcommittee of WCC members, former member Patrick Fairbairn and Watertown resident Peter Del Tredici. A copy of the Draft RFP is provided as Attachment A.

## Whitney Hill Park – 2024 Annual Report

- Field located existing trails and produced a preliminary trail map.
- In September, a member of the Commission, a resident, and staff met with the high school AP Environmental Science teacher and 8-12 science coordinator to discuss processing the data from the field work that Fairbairn has been managing.
- Routine maintenance by WCC of sample plot markers and cover boards; salamander monitoring.
- Monitoring and maintenance of the 32 sample plot centers.
- Limited maintenance, as necessary, by the DPW.

### **Proposed goals in 2025:**

- Investigate funding sources to support the preparation of a Woodland Management Plan.
- Commence the Woodland Management Plan once funding is secured. The process would include baseline assessment, community input on actions residents wish to see, a stewardship plan, projected costs and a schedule. Work with the Watertown High School AP Environmental Science teacher to use the data that Fairbairn has collected as a case study with students.

### **Longer Term Goals**

- Finalize the Woodland Management Plan.
- Implement the recommendations of the Woodland Management Plan.