



TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, July 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

**Hybrid Meeting – In Person and Via Zoom
(see highlighted information below)**

AGENDA

**Conservation
Commission**

Bob Cook
James Donaldson
Bruno Grimaldi,
Treasurer
Phil Huffman
Ted Joslin
Leo Laferriere, Vice
Chair
Curt Lindberg, Chair
Chris Loomis

**Town Clerk/
Asst. Treasurer**
Jennifer Peterson

**Town Treasurer/
Asst. Clerk**
Randy Brittingham

Town Administrator
Annie Decker
Dell'Isola

**Planning & Zoning
Administrator/E-911
Coordinator**
J.B Weir

Road Foreman
Josh Rogers

Fire Chief
Tripp Johnson

1. Welcome, Agenda Review and Selection of Minute Taker (5 min +/-) 6:30 – Curt
2. Public Input (5 min +/-) – 6:35
3. Review/approve 5/19/23, 6/19/23, and 7/6/23 minutes (5 min +/-) – 6:40 – All
4. Scrag Trail Project Update (10 min +/-) – 6:45 – James
5. Recommendation to Select Board on New Conservation Commission Member – Gail O’Keefe - see letter of interest and CV below (5 min +/-) – 6:55 – All
6. Welcome and Discussion with Misha Golfman from Mad River Path (20 min +/-) – 7:00 – All
7. Haskins Survey – Report of Expense Beyond that Authorized and Next Steps (30 min +/-) – 7:20 - Curt, Leo
8. Farley Riverside Park – Update and Next Steps (10 min +/-) – 7:50 - Phil
9. Financial Matters (5 min +/-) – 8:00 – Bruno
 - Invoice
10. Other Business (5 min +/-) – 8:05
 - Next meeting: 8/21/23 and at 6:30 pm – Curt
 - Invitations to future meetings – Ira Shadis, Robert Nelson
 - Other items
11. Adjourn – 8:10 pm

For access via Zoom use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84874802508?pwd=VnJCMEJ2UjAvaTF6VjZKZ2liNjhuUT09>

**To access meeting by phone, call 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 848 7480 2508,
Passcode: 970922**

In addition to the designated public comment period during the meeting, questions and comments may be submitted to Curt Lindberg, Chair, at wclindberg@gmail.com

Letter of Interest:

Waitsfield Conservation Commission,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Conservation Commission. Having a long standing interest in environmental issues, starting many years ago with my undergraduate studies at UConn School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, it has become the main focus of my work since retirement.

My relevant experience has been in non-profits around climate change activism, preservation of native species habitats, and wildlife habitat. I have a long history of community involvement, from coaching soccer to participating in Knot Thursdays. I have followed the Fayston's Conservation Commission's process for the Boyce Farm property, and am familiar with the major issues facing Waitsfield with wastewater, housing density, and conservation land management.

More generally, I have served on many boards and committees, working on long-range planning, fundraising, and hiring. I remain an active board member for a youth mental health institute. I am eager to contribute my skills and experience, and become more formally involved in the Valley's conservation efforts.

Sincerely,
Gail O'Keefe

Curriculum Vitae

Gail O'Keefe

gailokeefe@gmail.com

802-505-5796

Education:

University of Connecticut, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Tufts University, Department Urban and Environmental Policy
Boston College, Developmental and Educational Psychology (all but dissertation)

Work Experience:

My most recent work experience has been as a Faculty Dean of Eliot House, Harvard College. Heading up a residential house of 450 students, my responsibilities included managing a tutorial staff of 22 graduate students, building and office staff. My focus was on community building, academic mentoring, short term counseling, committee work, and instituting House programs for improvement of student well-being.

Other work experience centered around education and mental health of youth. I've worked in classrooms as a teacher, with children in DCF as an

educational advocate, as a counselor with Planned Parenthood, and on the soccer field as a coach for middle/high school girls. I have also been a foster parent to two adolescents, one still in our family as an adult.

Outside of my professional life my interests and activities have always been around environmental issues. I have been trained as a HeatSmart coach, and worked with homeowners to reduce their reliance on fossil fuel for heating and cooling, through insulation, solar panels, geothermal or air source heat pumps. My hobbies are bicycling, gardening, cross country skiing and hiking.