

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Rob Farley, Dave Hirth, Melissa Levy,
Bill Marks, Nancy Plunkett, Gerry Livingston (Chair)*

MINUTES of September 10, 2007

Opening

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall by G. Livingston.

Present: *Rob Farley, Dave Hirth, Melissa Levy, Bill Marks, Nancy Plunkett, Gerry Livingston*

Absent:

Guests:

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

1. Geprag's Park
 - a. Melissa summarized recent activities regarding installation of the wind tower and subsequent issues. Installation went smoothly but the humming noise from the turbine has resulted in numerous complaints from neighbors and hikers as far away as the parking lot off of the Shelburne Falls road. Earth Turbines has or will disable the turbine until a remedy can be found. At the moment it is not known what the source of the vibration is. Rocky Martin will be queried to provide updates.
 - b. Some citizens have approached both the Planning Office and the CC to voice concerns regarding the impact of the turbine on birds and bats resident in the area. Discussion followed on what sources of information are available. Dave Hirth agreed to prepare a short report summarizing concerns (fact vs. myth) regarding the impact of wind towers on wildlife for possible publication in *The Record* or online. No deadline was set.
 - c. An action item was agreed to review and update the management plan for the Geprag's Park over the next six months. It was also decided to discuss with the Trails Committee how to foster linkage with other public trails and how best to maintain Geprag's trails. The suggestion of the Trails Committee assuming trail maintenance responsibilities was proposed. Melissa, as park supervisor, agreed to initiate the review process although again, due to activities with the GCRP, no schedule was established.
2. Greenspace and Cultural Resources Plan
 - a. LandWorks draft poster and article for *The Record* advertising the upcoming public forum was reviewed and editorial suggestions noted. Discussion focused largely on securing assistance from citizens and graduate students or interns to aid in the GCRP and web site development process. It was agreed the latter should be a higher priority action item.
 - b. The agenda and format of the upcoming October 8th forum was discussed. Follow on discussion of deliverables following the forum raised concern that we would not be able to meet the schedule proposed in the current LandWorks contract. It was agreed that greater facilitation of efforts was needed.
 - c. It was decided that we should review and possibly propose to the PC a housekeeping amendment to Sect. 6.10.8 of the Town's subdivision regulations. Bill will continue conversations with Alex and Peter regarding the objectives and timing of such a proposal

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

and, if needed, prepare a draft for CC consideration. Bill also agreed to compile all supporting sections of the regulations and Town Plan that may apply to our GCRP effort.

- i. UPDATE: Following subsequent discussions the CC chose not to pursue this proposal further at this time, choosing, instead, to clarify and support its recommendations in the GCRP. gpl; Sep. 20.
3. Proposed Developments – It was agreed the CC should participate in the Sep. 18 DRB hearing regarding the Baldwin proposal for a 3-lot subdivision on 10 acres. There is some concern that the density would be too great unless the larger adjoining Baldwin holdins are considered as part of the equation.

New Business

Discussion again arose on the need to increase CC membership in part because of current workload demands. David Nagel's application was discussed and although it was unanimously decided that he would be a great addition to the Commission, it was decided his appointment should be deterred because his current residence precludes him from actively engaging in CC business. As an alternative, it was decided to approach the SB to approve his appointment as an "adjunct member" which would allow him to participate in discussions as possible and to contribute to tasks at hand but not hold voting right.

Announcements:

Agenda for Next Meeting

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 by G. Livingston. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 PM on September 24, 2007 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Bill Marks