

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of January 28, 2008

Opening

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on January 14, 2008 in the Town Hall by *Gerry Livingston*.

Present: *Rob Farley, Dave Hirth, Melissa Levy, Nancy Plunkett, Gerry Livingston, Charles Kogge*

Absent: *Bill Marks (on leave)*

Visitors: Marty Illick (Lewis Creek Association), Kristen Underwood (South Mountain Research & Consulting), and Amy Diller (Addison Co. RPC).

Approval of Minutes

Reports

Geprags Park

- Melissa summarized results of discussions regarding the D. Carse subdivision adjacent the park. The developer has done a great job of concentrating the new lots away from the park and leaving the majority of the parcel as open space. Discussion was focused on extending an easement along the park border to allow non-motorized access to the park.
- A representative of EarthTurbines, Inc. noted in a chance meeting this past week that they had reconsidered some of their marketing and design decisions regarding the turbine installed last fall at Geprags Park. As a result, they recently updated the software to address the earlier resonance issue and restarted the turbine this past week. Later this spring they will replace the turbine with another prototype designed to be scaled up to meet commercial needs.

GCRP

- Marty Illick, Kristen Underwood, and Amy Diller, presented an overview of river corridor planning efforts based on the Phase II geomorphic assessments carried out under VT ANR's River management program.
- Nancy summarized discussions with LandWorks regarding the organization of the plan. It was decided to drop Cultural Resources from the title and focus just on the Greenspace issues. Historic resources need to be addressed in a separate follow on plan. It was also decided that updated input from the ancient roads and trails committees was required. Nancy will follow up with communications to both.

The question of how to address public vs. private trails was brought up. This also raised the question of how to address intensively managed lands (golf courses, commercial trail networks, gravel roads) vs. those that are not as thoroughly managed. This discussion was temporarily tabled on the recommendation that these issues need to be addressed but that we would first see what LandWorks proposed.

Dave suggested we should contact Tom McEvoy at UVM regarding the COVERTS program to begin a dialog regarding neighborhood forest management practices. Dave agreed to gather more information about the program.

Public Outreach

- It was agreed that we would each contribute two articles for submission to The Hinesburg Record which will address a conservation topic of interest to the community. Various topics were discussed but no priorities were set.

Announcements:

None

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Agenda for Next Meeting

- Continued focus on the GCRP.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Gerry Livingston. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 PM on February 11 ,2008 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: G. Livingston