

# **HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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

## **MINUTES of July 14, 2008**

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:05 pm on July 14, 2008 in the Town Hall by Gerry Livingston.

**Present:** *Rob Farley, Melissa Levy, Charles Kogge, Gerry Livingston, Bill Marks, Matthew Probasco, Kristen Sharpless*

**Absent:** *Dave Hirth, Nancy Plunkett*

### **Topic of Discussion**

#### **Alex's Project on Rural Area Zoning Ordinance**

Bill summarized his work with Alex on rural area zoning ordinances. Bill reported on the Planning Commission June meeting at which several of the HCC were in attendance. A discussion followed on the content of the meeting. Bill and Alex will be meeting on July 17 to further discuss this topic. They will be looking at the Norwich Plan as well as other scenarios. The commission talked about several topics relating to rural zoning and ordinances including but not limited to: determining the density, natural resources, subdividing, equity to landowner, controls for conservation, number of lots and parcel sizes.

#### **Geprags Park**

Gerry asked about a story in the Hinesburg Record on the wind tower. Gerry was wondering if the noise problem related to the wind turbine has been solved. Melissa reported that a control was added to solve the noise problem, but Gerry reported that the control is not currently working. Melissa will check into this. Melissa is looking at another work day in September and will coordinate a date by email. Melissa reported she has an outline for the Geprags Park Management Plan and will be email to the commission members with the September workday solicitation.

#### **Greenspace Plan**

Rob gave a summary on the Groundwater section Draft 2. Gerry reported he will have a draft of the water resource section soon. At the next Conservation Commission meeting, the Commission will begin a section by section review of the plan.

#### **Bissonette Farm/Town Forest Projects**

*Kristen* is now chair of the Bissonette "Town Forest" Property Committee. The Committee is hoping to get a draft Management Plan ready for a town forum in October, and then complete the plan in winter/spring/summer 2009. Several interpretive walks have happen on the site and more are scheduled prior to October.

Kristen mentioned the Audubon Center effort to coordinate landowner on Sherman Hollow to discuss management strategy for land with landowners. Gerry said he has been at other conservation discussions with other homeowner groups and neighborhood groups. He voiced how great of an opportunity we have as a commission to provide technical expertise to all the homeowner groups and neighborhood groups and encouraged us to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on July 28, 2008 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Rob Farley