

# 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 28, 2008*

## **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:15 pm on July 28, 2008 in the Town Hall by Gerry Livingston.

**Present:** *Rob Farley, Melissa Levy, Nancy Plunkett, Gerry Livingston, Bill Marks, Matthew Probasco*

**Absent:** *Dave Hirth, Charles Kogge, Kristen Sharpless*

## **Topic of Discussion**

### **Approval of past minutes (July 14)**

- Status of minutes for June 23 - approved
- July 14 submitted. July 28, 2008 for review via email.
- Both August meetings cancelled.

### **Background Information / Summary Reports**

- Budget
  - Upon responding to Jeanne's inquiry regarding our uncommitted FY07-08 funds and the difficulties we had with our contractual support, she agreed to petition the Select Board to carry over \$2000 from our previous year's budget to this fiscal year's budget to aid our planning efforts. A decision should be forthcoming soon.
  - Reserve funds – The Select Board has again asked (second request) that we propose how we plan to allocate our reserve funds (~\$6800). As some indication was needed immediately, the Commission discussed what expenses would be needed for the Greenspace Plan (\$4000 in this year's budget for plan) and suggested that some form of public outreach, formatting, wordsmithing might be needed. We do not have a figure yet for the Select Board. We discussed the following ideas for using the carry over budget: send to land accusation and other worthy conservation initiatives (Community Garden, tree planting, new sign for Geprag, trail maps).
  - Our FY07-08 budget was \$5300, our total commitment by year's end was \$2,423, i.e. we allocated about 45% of our budget.
- Web site development
  - Gerry had a very productive discussion with Aaron Kimball, the Town's webmaster.
  - Aaron was very supportive of our efforts to develop our own website and agreed that a self-maintained site may serve as a model for other groups within the Town even though some continuity of style was needed on the Town's maintained pages. He would like to implement improvements to the Town's site but that change depends upon time and resource allocations by the Select Board. Charlie, Aaron and Gerry are to meet within the next few weeks to brainstorm how best to integrate efforts.
  - Are we ok with putting member phone numbers on the web page? Each member present gave the approval or denial to post their number.
  - Charlie has added codes for items to start working on the webpage. We would like to have the website active by Winter and with the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the Greenspace Plan.

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- Geprag's Park – Melissa – still working on management plan and scheduling work for fall.
- Lowland Town Forest – Kristen, Matthew – Matthew updated the committee with a general description of the following: timeline for plan, written vision, work on goals and objectives, more Indian bats roasting on a neighboring property.

## *Open Discussion*

- **Greenspace Plan**

We spent time reviewing the vision statements for each section. Concerns included voice, tense (present), using whole sentence and not bullets. We looked at several sections to see what we like and don't like to find a consistency format.

- August 6, Sherman Hollow homeowner meeting. Gerry plans to attend.

- **Lake Iroquois management plan**

Gerry met with the Lake Iroquois Association (July 13) and Williston's Environmental Officer (July 18) to discuss how to approach water quality issues brought to our attention for Lake Iroquois and Sunset Lake. Gerry found data and document on water quality. The association is very concerned about failing septic system and they want help. Williston Environmental Officer has interest in developing a management plan. Money is need from each town to begin the process, grant money may be available latter. Gerry will bring forward a proposed approach to address the Lake Iroquois issue.

## *Events Calendar*

- **Aug 5, 7:30. [Development Review Board](#)** – Note the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled. A key agenda item to watch is the Norris proposal for a PRD off of Rt 116 just south of town. Detailed response of the P&Z Office available.
  - Minutes for the July 1 meeting are not yet posted. Anyone know the results of the decision on George Bedard's proposed development off of Texas Hill Rd?
- **Aug 13, 7:30. [Planning Commission](#)** – Note the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled. Please note that the 8/13 meeting will be held earlier than usual, and that the bulk of the meeting will involve site visits to Geprags Park and a VT Fish and Wildlife Dept. property on Lincoln Hill Road. From interpreting the [minutes of the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting](#), these site visits are simply an effort by the PC to better understand site design (I'll contact Alex before the Aug. meeting).

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on September 8, 2008 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Rob Farley