

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of October 13, 2008

Opening

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:15 pm on October 13, 2008 in the Town Hall by Gerry Livingston.

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

Absent: *Matthew Probasco*

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of September 22, 2008 were approved.

Invasive Plant Species:

A discussion was held on a number of invasive plant species. It was generally agreed that this was an issue the Commission should address in 2009, beginning with public outreach to educate homeowners on how to identify and eradicate invasives.

Geprags Park:

A decision was made not to repair or replace the #2 DR mower at Geprags Park. The #1 mower was repaired and returned.

Melissa said that she has a rough outline of an updated Geprags Park management plan and will present her recommendations at the next meeting.

A local church inquired about whether the HCC would consider a proposal for a "labyrinth" in Geprags Park. Melissa will follow up with the group to obtain more information.

It was noted that Ted's Sledding Hill and the area at the base of the wind tower need mowing. Melissa will follow up with Tractor Works and Rocky.

Budget:

Gerry informed the group that Alex will be submitting an application for a municipal planning grant. The application will request funds for the Planning Commission's work this year and for help for the HCC to format the Greenspace plan for the web and hard copies. The \$4,000 planning money in the HCC's current fiscal year budget will be used for work on content. Potential consultants will be discussed at the next meeting.

How best to utilize the \$6,800 in the Reserves account was again discussed. Using the funds for grant money for teachers for materials to use the park as a teaching tool and/or toward land acquisition were two of several ideas suggested. It was agreed Melissa should request input from Jo White because these monies (non-tax funds) were largely acquired through the actions of her late husband.

Web Site:

Charlie has added a lot of content to the site. The ease of updating will be critical. More photos are needed. Gerry will follow up with Alex about access to the local wireless network. We are working to have a draft site ready to present to the Town by end of the year.

Lake Iroquois Watershed Management Plan:

The status of work with the Lake Iroquois Association was discussed. The association was prepared to request funding from each town. It was recommended that each of the four Towns bordering the lake

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send a CC member to work with the LIA to draft a plan. There are many example watershed plans available both from VT ANR and online to draw from. Subsequent funding requests should be focused on implementing the plan.

Watershed Management Forum:

Karen Bates from ANR has offered to hold a Watershed Management Forum in Hinesburg, which would benefit the Lake Iroquois planning effort and the water resources section of the Greenspace Plan. Only a few dates in November are left. Gerry will try to schedule it for November 10.

Greenspace and Cultural Resources Plan

Gerry and Rob are making progress on the Water Resources section. Kristen will send Nancy the revised Forest section for inclusion in the current plan draft. All will continue to work on individual sections.

Announcements:

- ◆ The informational final walk scheduled on the Bissonette town forestland will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 9-12. It will be led by Mike Snyder.
- ◆ A public forum will be held on Wednesday, October 29 from 7-9pm in the HCS cafeteria on the Bissonette Town Forest management plan.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. The next general meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on October 27, 2008 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Plunkett