

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of December 8, 2008

Opening

The regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was called to order at 7:10pm on 12/8/08 in the Town Hall by Nancy Plunkett, acting Chair.

Present: Matthew Probasco, Kristen Sharpless, Charlie Kogge, Dave Hirth, Melissa Levy, Bill Marks, Nancy Plunkett, Gerry Livingston

Absent: Rob Farley

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting (November 24, 2008) were unanimously approved as distributed.

Geprag Park Management Plan

Melissa continues to work on an agreed 5 year Plan for Geprag Park, which will include the possibility of a connector bike path between Rt. 116 (across the proposed Ballard housing development) and Shelburne Falls Rd. No word yet from the United Church of Christ about their thoughts of building a labyrinth in the Park.

Website

Charlie's making progress on our new website, which will be linked to the Town's website. It needs to focus on our Greenspace Plan and its related maps, and keep the 'photo album' off center stage.

Greenspace Plan

The Conserved Land section, which Nancy is working on, needs to redefine its scope to include Town and State owned land and to clarify the definition of conserved lands. Technically speaking, Town and State lands are not necessarily 'conserved.' The current draft map of conserved lands needs to be updated to reflect this distinction. There was also a question about the legal status of Geprag Park as 'conserved' land. Bill thought it likely that the Town could not benefit from it other than using it as a public park, and therefore thought it 'conserved' for all practical purposes.

HCC Organization

Due to his resignation as of 12/31/08, this was Gerry's last meeting as a member of the HCC and a discussion was held on how to structure a new leadership, since there was no one clearly willing to take on all the formidable responsibilities that Gerry had assumed. There was a consensus for a division of roles and jobs to share to continue work on our primary front, the Greenspace Plan. Since the single most important and complicated issue is water quality, and since Matt Probasco is the most qualified by background (and otherwise willing to devote more time to the HCC), he agreed to take on the role of Chair and be in charge of setting the agenda, being chief contact person on at least those issues (such as with the Lewis Creek and Lake Iroquois groups), and otherwise be in charge of leading our efforts to finish work on the Plan. We unanimously, and gratefully, voted him in as the new Chair, effective 1/1/09.

Meanwhile, it was also understood that others would continue working on their assumed tasks in more of a leadership role, so as to reduce these burdens on Matt.

It was agreed that everyone will finish their respective sections by the end of this year so that we can then review each others' work and hire a consultant early next year to review our first draft efforts and help us quickly put together a Plan ready for public review.

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

A great round of applause and heartfelt appreciation for Gerry's incredible work and dedication to furthering this Plan and bringing it very close to fruition. We wish him well for the future!!

Announcements

No meeting on 12/22/08 due to its proximity to the holidays and most members' prior commitments. Next meeting Jan 12, 2009!

Agenda for Next Meeting

Continue review of individual sections in Plan.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 by Nancy Plunkett, acting Chair. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 pm on January 12, 2009 at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by: Bill Marks, Secretary for the meeting