

HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES of April 13, 2009

Opening

The regular meeting of the Hinesburg Conservation Commission (HCC) was called to order at 7:10 pm on April 13, 2009 at the Hinesburg Town Hall by Matthew Probasco.

Present: Dave Hirth, Charles Kogge, Bill Marks, Nancy Plunkett, Matthew Probasco, Kristen Sharpless

Absent: Melissa Levy

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 23, 2009 were approved as amended.

Proposed Subdivision Regulations Revisions

Bill presented a draft of proposed recommendations to amend Section 6.10.8 of the Subdivision Regulations, which deals with lot layout under design standards for rural areas. Other revisions to the Subdivision and Zoning Regulations are currently under consideration by the Selectboard, and the question was posed to the HCC whether this was a good time to re-present proposed amendments to this section. It was decided that Bill would further investigate whether the timing is right, and the other members would review the section in light of what's proposed in the Greenspace Plan.

Hinesburg Town Forest Committee

The Selectboard is requesting appointments to form a new committee to draft a management plan for the Hinesburg Town Forest. It was agreed that the HCC could not commit a person to this project at this time. In addition, it was decided that the HCC shall express its support for the expansion of the existing Town Forest Committee to take on this task and that the development of the management plan should be guided by the experience of the LaPlatte Headwaters Committee when the management plan for the new town forest is completed. It was mentioned that County Forester Mike Snyder was concerned about the cutting of new trails being conducted by the Fellowship of the Wheel and was anxious that a new plan be completed as soon as possible to address competing uses. It was suggested that a moratorium on most damaging uses/practices be proposed to be in effect until a plan is completed.

Greenspace Plan

The Plan Committee will next review the sections on Hillside and Ridgelines, Scenic Resources, and Conserved Natural Landscapes and Resources. Final work on the forest, ecological, and water sections will be finished before additional review by the Committee. May 25 is the goal for completing review and editing of Chapter II.

HCC Website

The site will be connected to the Town web site.

Other Business

Kristen announced that on Saturday, June 6, trees will be planted on the LaPlatte Headwaters property and that volunteers are needed to install mats and tubes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted by: Nancy Plunkett
