

# **HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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*Dave Hirth, Melissa Levy (Chair),  
Bill Marks, Jennifer McGowan*

*MINUTES of February 15, 2011*

Present: Melissa Levy, Bill Marks, Jenn McGowan

Absent: Dave Hirth

Rural zoning – last meeting focused on flood zoning, Bill spoke in favor. Next meeting is 2-23-11, Bill will try to make a portion but has a conflict.

HCC scheduled on Select Board Agenda at 7 for 2-21 for land acquisition fund. Bill and Jenn will represent HCC and \$10,000 recommendation for Baldwin project.

Hinesburg was chosen to serve as a pilot community for the CCMPO/CCRPC Wildlife and Transportation Project (more info below). Melissa will email for more information and a timeline.

Bill suggested that a hilltop ridgeline map would be a useful tool for Green Space Plan. Could use topo maps and highlight elevation areas – Melissa will email Alex. Still waiting on Green Space Plan.

Audubon has golden-winged warbler funding with potential for time and/or money for management of shrub land at Geprags. Could transfer knowledge gained at Charlotte.

Geprag's Park Management Plan – should add Mark's info and info on invasives (consult with Sharon Plumb).

## **CCMPO/CCRPC Wildlife and Transportation Project**

Thank you for your submissions to serve as a pilot community for the CCMPO/CCRPC Wildlife and Transportation Project. We were pleased with the level of interest in this effort, and our reviewers agreed that we should try to assist all of the towns that applied. You may be familiar with the current Regional Connectivity Project in Jericho, Underhill and Richmond, an effort to identify and map priority large habitat blocks and the connecting habitats that link them. Through their project they have developed a methodology and data collection protocol which could be refined and used by other communities such as yours. As Phase I of our project we are proposing to work with those communities to help package and distribute their methodology, data sets, and other resources. Phase II of our project would be to work with your three towns (Bolton, Hinesburg, and Huntington) to apply the Regional Connectivity Project methodology to build on your current work and identify important habitat, connectivity among habitat blocks, and crossings of the transportation system.

We've also been in touch with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) about their current project to develop Best Management Practices (BMP) regarding wildlife and transportation. A future Phase III for our project would be for us to work with VTrans to refine those BMPs and apply them at the local level to Jericho, Underhill, Richmond, Bolton, Hinesburg, and Huntington.