



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Minutes - November 10, 2015

- Approved 12/08/15 -

Members Present: Alison Lesure, Meg Handler, Merrily Lovell

Members Absent: Bill Marks

Guests: Bob Hyams

1. **Call to Order** at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

Report from Nov. 7th Annual Summit of Assoc. of Conservation Commissions. Focused on Town Forests. There were two workshops before lunch and one after. First was Conservation 101 by Jens Hilke. He said he was involved in the Hinesburg Greenspace Plan (among many consultants) and he would be willing to come to a meeting to talk with us about ideas for how to use the plan. Second workshop was Conflict Resolution. Used examples to discuss issues. Get the people together and remove the Governing Bodies, was the main strategy stressed. Afternoon workshop was Invasive Species. Person who led it lives in Charlotte. Perhaps we could do an invasive species project at Geprags. Perhaps a workday. The session leaders suggested don't focus on the negative. Instead, focus on the positive... when we bring in more native species, we will enhance the environment for certain birds and animals. Alison went to a workshop on Protecting Community-owned Land. Used Hogback Mountain as an example. Some other Conservation Commissions are more involved in this than Hinesburg. Peter Forbes was the Keynote Speaker for the event. He was very inspiring. Brought in unexpected issues like Race and tied them to a Sense of Place and Responsibility to protect what we have. Biggest take-home was the invasives piece and the connection Jens had to the Greenspace Plan. We should meet with him after the New Year. Overall, a great conference.

3. **Minutes**

Approved 27 October 2015 minutes.

4. Budget Follow-Up From Last Meeting

Meg met with Missy, the group discussed the budget at our last meeting. Meg wrote it up and emailed it to Trevor. Meg will email a copy to Alison.

5. Town Report Write-Up (due December 14th)

Alison offered to write up something and send it around so we can all look it over. Should be a summary of what we have done in the last year. Birding talk; LIA; manage Geprags; new sign.

6. Geprags – Possible Birds of Geprags Presentation, Other Geprags Business

Alison received an email from Maeve Kim (Jericho) and she had reached out to Lenore Budd and others. She asked about the meaning behind “Dad’s Mailbox”. No one present knew the meaning. She is interested in giving a bird talk and birding classes at Geprags. Offering to do a walk or something like that. Early May is ideal. We should nail down a date early. We could plan other events around that.

7. Monkton Sponsored Intertown Conservation Meeting Jan. 24th

Agriculture and Natural Areas Committee focuses on land conservation. They are also very interested in wildlife corridors and making connections across town lines. Meg and Alison plan to attend.

8. Other Business

Alison proposes to cancel our meetings on Nov. 24 and Dec. 22. because of Thanksgiving and Christmas, so our next meeting will be Dec. 8th. LIA will be here on Dec. 8th.

Next Meeting: December 8

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Handler