



## Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes - May 10, 2016

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**Members Present:** Meg Handler, Bob Hyams, Shannon Kelly, Alison Lesure, Merrily Lovell, Bill Marks

**Members Absent:** None.

**Guests:** None.

1. Call to order at 7:10 pm.
2. Approve Minutes from 4/12 – Minutes approved with amendments. All voted in favor.
3. Geprags – By the end of the meeting we will have:
  - a. Received an update on VGS-Geprags Park subcommittee activities and progress – Bob gave an update on what has been happening in the subcommittee. They have had 2 meetings; second meeting was with Vt Gas. Vt. Gas sent sketch for erosion control plan. In general, they did not seem prepared, no specific plans. Current location will cause more damage than if it were East of the stream, but Vt Gas does not want to move it. Similar issues as before, no specifics on restoration plan, erosion control, etc. Another two meetings scheduled this week: Wednesday 4-6pm; Friday 8:30am. The goal is to have recommendations by Friday.
  - b. Discussed support, and any possible conditions for the support, of any new agreement – There are no recommendations yet, so we have nothing to support. Bill is concerned about the fact that the Selectboard has still not committed to getting good legal council. Conservation Commission will want to comment on whatever proposal comes out of the subcommittee, and Bob as representative for the CC might end up dissenting from that proposal.
  - c. Revisited the possible offering of funds from the Conservation Commission reserve fund to assist with costs to bring in outside expertise for analysis and/or legal counsel for agreement negotiations – At this point, it is premature to even discuss this. The Selectboard doesn't seem inclined to hire anyone. We could offer our \$5,000 as an incentive and use that to encourage the Selectboard to apply for the Department of

Public Service (DPS) funds. It is believed that the Selectboard is entitled to get \$5,000 from the DPS to help negotiate with Vt. Gas, and potentially more. Bill noted that any donations made to fund this expertise could be repaid by any money gained from Vt. Gas.

- d. Discussed and identified any action items for other non-VGS/pipeline Geprags items (trail mowing, bench replacement, warbler geolocator work) – Continued discussion on pipeline and whether or not we want to consider holding a Special meeting and putting together comments for the Monday Selectboard meeting. Bill made a motion to authorize Bob to draft a summary on the recommendations after the Friday subcommittee meeting, and provide to the rest of the CC. Bob is also authorized to take these recommendations and present them on behalf of the CC for the Monday Selectboard meeting. Merrily seconded it, unanimously approved. A special meeting will be warned for 6pm on Monday, to discuss the comments and recommendations and take any motions as a Commission before the Monday meeting. Other Geprags news: Marc Labarr is putting geolocators on the warblers to track what they are doing. Also a reminder about the trail day at Geprags on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Trail mowing needs to happen, Bob may be able to help with this. Trails Committee is looking into this and Alison will reach out to them.
4. Interim zoning and solar topics – Commission involvement? Meg gave a summary of the interim zoning issue from the last Selectboard meeting. Solar topic tabled for another meeting.
5. Updates, Reminders, and Other Business – Act 64 (Water Matters) presentation from CLF is May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Commission will postpone its next meeting to May 31<sup>st</sup>, to allow everyone to go to the Water Matters meeting; Summer schedule – we will talk about this at our next meeting; National Trail Day 6/4 – Trails Committee will organize this event. We will help as volunteers. Bob reminded us that we need more members and we should all attempt to recruit people.
6. Nature Notes

**Next Meeting:** Special Meeting May 16 at 6:00pm. Next regular meeting May 31.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Handler