



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes - September 13, 2016

- Draft -

Members Present: Shannon Kelly, Alison Lesure, Merrily Lovell

Members Absent: Meg Handler, Bob Hyams, Bill Marks

Guests: Mark LaBarr, Ray Mainer

Note: This regular meeting did not have a quorum of the members present.

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm by Shannon.
2. **Minutes** - Shannon moved to approve the minutes from August 23, Alison seconded, all in favor, but official action with a quorum present will need to be taken at the next meeting.
3. Mark LaBarr provided an **update on work Audubon Vermont** is doing with the golden and blue winged warblers within Hinesburg, as well as the greater Southern Champlain Valley which has been identified as a focus area for management of this species. Activities and management of the birds at Geprags was specifically discussed to inform the revision of the Geprags Management Plan. Mark agreed to assist the Commission with drafting this section. Other resources to use for bird inventorying and associated management are Green Mountain Audubon and Vermont eBird. Mark also volunteered to flag an area for brushhogging next year in and around the upper bench/out to Lupine Trail area to continue the management of ideal warbler habitat that was initiated several years ago in this portion of the park.
4. Ray Mainer discussed the cost and installation of the **New Kiosk**. Estimated to cost between \$250-300. Ray is ready to start digging holes for the posts once flagged and installing whenever the Commission is ready. The Commission agreed to replace the kiosk at a past meeting, but action to fund this kiosk replacement will be taken at the next meeting when there is a quorum present.
5. **AVCC Membership** – Shannon will follow up again with Missy to confirm payment of membership dues as a Commission for July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017. Annual summit early bird registration is by September 17th and regular registration goes until October 10th. Commission will need to put in a request Missy to register. As the summit in October gets nearer, will discuss any specific carpooling and other arrangements for those who plan to attend.

6. **Open Meeting Law** – Based on recent training that Merrily, Shannon and Alison attended on 9/12, Alison will draft short procedures for the Commission to implement and share with all members for discussion at an upcoming meeting. The thought is that once reviewed and approved by the Commission, it will be shared with Town administration, Select Board, and other committee chairs as an FYI.
7. **Harvest Festival** – Alison shared ideas for the Commission’s table. She will send email to all who expressed interest in helping with information and request for table.
8. **Other Business** – Discussed the recent motion made at the Commission’s August 9 meeting regarding the Commission’s request for how the compensation for the Geprags’ easement outlined in the VGS-Town of Hinesburg should be applied. It was discussed that the Commission might have come to this decision too hastily and it needs to be revisited and put into a formal request for the Select Board to consider if and when the funds are received by the Town. Merrily and Alison will each draft a letter with a proposal for use of the compensation to discuss at the next meeting. At this point in time there do not appear to be any actionable items for the Commission until decisions are received from the PSB and other matters external to the Commission are resolved, at which point there may again be specific involvement/input provided and actions that must be taken in the Commission’s role as steward of the park. The members present also discussed other opportunities for the Commission aside from Geprags’ related issues and the development of the management plan, which included watershed issues and actually hosting a sledding party this coming winter (think snow!).

9. Nature Notes

Next Meeting: September 27, 2016

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Lesure