

**Town of Hinesburg  
Planning Commission  
August 10, 2016  
Approved August 24, 2016**

Members Present: Maggie Gordon, Barbara Forauer, Russell Fox, Dennis Place, Joe Iadanza, Rolf Kielman, John Kiedaisch, Jeff French arrived at 7:36 pm.

Members Absent: James Donegan

Public Present: Krista Hoffsis, Marty Illick, Andrea Morgante

Also Present: Dawn Morgan (Recording Secretary) and Alex Weinhagen (Director of Planning & Zoning).

Joe I. chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 7:33pm.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Public Comments for Non-agenda Items:** None.

**LaPlatte River Water Quality Summary:** *Presentation by Krista Hoffsis, Marty Illick and Andrea Morgante – Lewis Creek Association (LCA).* Marty will be leaving the Executive Directorship of the LCA and Krista will be taking over as the Program Coordinator. Andrea has been helping the LCA with water sampling.

Krista H. reported that the Lewis Creek Association has created a branch organization called the South Chittenden River Watch. The organization has been performing water quality sample testing on the LaPlatte River, which captures the area watershed, since 2004. The organization performed random sampling from 2004-2012 and in 2013 shifted its testing focus to high flow events. Krista H. said that about 17 volunteers (4 of them Hinesburg town residents) have been collecting the samples, which are then sent to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for testing.

Krista H. presented 2 maps that showed the compiled testing data and highlighted problem areas that the organization is focusing on. Also provided was a narrative report and a list of projects that the group was able to identify based on the data. Marty I. and Krista H. are now working with municipalities to inform them about the data, with the goal of having Towns incorporate the information into their future planning processes.

Krista H. noted that erosion and high levels of phosphorous are a particular concern for Hinesburg. It was discussed that Hinesburg is topographically downstream of much of the watershed, so many of the issues come from up stream. The issues are then compounded due to historic practices of dredging and the straightening of river banks.

Alex W. mentioned that the Town is aware of the need for rivers to reestablish themselves, which is why they have increased development buffer zones in recent years. He then asked if the data showed whether the concentration of phosphorous was coming from new development or the general erosion of river banks. Marty I. indicated that it would be difficult to discern from the existing data, and noted that before the Town moved forward setting policy or regulations it would be wise to consult with technical experts first.

There was general discussion about particular problem areas identified on the maps. Ideas of ways the Town could encourage positive improvements to water quality included maintaining existing green areas, additional modification to setback regulations near rivers and streams, and encouraging the replacement of existing culverts that are currently too small for fish to pass through. Andrea M. expressed that the State Wetlands Map is not necessarily up to date with the wetland areas identified on the Hinesburg map, and that it would be good to verify that the State map is accurate.

There was additional discussion about effective ways to present the data, including combining the LCA maps with topographical overlays, soil drainage types, etc.

**Town Plan – top ten priority action items – cont'd from 7/27 mtg:** The Commission continued working together prioritizing and consolidating redundancies. They were able to complete items 7.1 and 2.1. Some items were reworded and some were consolidated. The Commission will continue the process at the 08/24/16 meeting.

**Minutes of 07/27/16 Meeting:** Dennis P. **made a motion to approve the 07/27/16 minutes as amended** and Maggie G. **seconded the motion**. The Board voted **8-0**.

**Other Business & Correspondence:** Alex said the Town Selectboard has set a public hearing on the solar screening regulation revisions on 09/12/16.

Joe I. **made a motion to close the meeting and adjourn**. Barbara F. **seconded the motion**. The Board voted **8-0**. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dawn Morgan, Recording Secretary