



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2017

- Draft -

Members Present: Meg Handler-late(arrived 7:44), Bob Hyams, , Merrily Lovell, Bill Marks, Bill Baker, Marie Ayers , Michael Bissonette – late (arrived 7:40), Stacy Riley –participating by speaker phone
Observing/visiting – Kate Kelley, Elliot Cluba, George LeClair

Members Absent: Bob Hyams

1. Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
3. Green Up Day - Shifts on Trucks
8:00-10:00 - Marie Ayers and Bill Baker
10:00-1200 - Kate Kelley, Bob Hyams
12:00-2:00 - Merrily, Meg
2:00-4:00 - Stacy, Bill Marks
4. Welcome New Members
Introductions, sharing of goals, visions, hopes, areas where individuals hope to work
Stacy Riley, Marie Ayers, Bill Baker, Michael Bissonette
5. Go over mission, important rules for meetings
Hinesburg Cons Comm Mission from Town CC webpage
Vt title 24 Chapter 118
Conflict of Interest - We had a discussion about how this applies. Everyone should be open about this and bring it up in situations where it is relevant.
Open Meeting Law –The intent is transparency. Quorum: now that we will have full membership, if 5 people meet, it's a meeting. It needs to be warned, which means the public needs to be informed and invited. We need to be careful about this rule.
6. Meeting with Town Forest Committee
We have common Interests both for VT Gas money and also for other common goals. For VT Gas money, we decided with the Rec Committee, that a unanimous Select Board decision would be beneficial, and that kind of consensus is our goal. Invasives might be a point of contact. Perhaps we could use the VT Gas money to educate people about

invasives. Another area of overlap might be wildlife mapping. This spring, the trails committee is having an inventory done for the Hinesburg Town Forest.

We had a conversation about putting a conservation easement on the Hinesburg Town Forest. How would that change things? It would be conserved in perpetuity. The intent would be to continue all current uses. The desire to conserve this property stems from a fear that it might get subdivided and individual parts sold off. Also, there is a goal to establish conservation of contiguous parcels. Preserving wildlife corridors might also be of interest to both committees. We had a discussion about the merits of conservation easements.

The wildlife inventory at Town Forest should be done and reported by August. Perhaps we could do joint invasive species workshops. The Town Forest has already done an inventory of wetland and vernal pool mapping. This will help the CC in its new mapping project. This was done in 2012 just. Just sections of three trails. It was not done for the whole forest.

Water Matters will be doing a workshop the week of May 8th 7-9 for training on the Bio-Finder. Members were interested in attending but could not commit until the exact date and time were set.

Marie gave a report on what she is doing in working with Stacey on education possibilities. The education goals are to get the kids involved at the Hinesburg School. How can the CC work with the school? She is also working on connecting with Echo, especially at the high school level. She also talked with Aaron about getting a website up and running. Aaron is looking into finding out what would be the best site.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2017

Al Karnatz (VLT) will be meeting with us to discuss land conservation at a location on O'Neil Rd. Joe and Emily Donegan want to conserve land at the O'Neil Farm. Perhaps Joe should also attend.

Answers to questions from a new member: The Conservation Commission has requested that all VT Gas money go to the Land Acquisition Fund.

The Greenspace Plan was never separately adopted because so much of it became out of date as the Planning Commission separately addressed those issues. What was valuable in the Green Space plan got integrated into Chapter 5 of the new Town Plan by the Conservation Commission

Nature Notes:

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Handler