



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

1. Call to order: Meg Handler, Kate Kelly, Darcie Mumley, Tobi Schulman, Liz Doran present.
Bob Hyams called in on the phone. 7:00 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: water/wastewater treatment request
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: none present
4. Geprags: CC met at the park this past weekend. Discussed additional mowings to help control parsnip. Kate presented budget to selectboard which includes additional mowings. Tobi met with Sue Smith from Charlotte to discuss park management. She gave Tobi a pamphlet from the Nature Conservancy to help with management of invasive plants. Timing of mowing is important (end of June/beginning of July). Also, mowing the road edge would be helpful. Cutting buckthorn was productive. We might want to continue that over the winter. Mark LaBarr (Audubon) is willing to work on bird habitat over the winter, if we decide we want to do that. He has no money for this but is happy to help. We can discuss this at the next meeting. Also, Darcie reported that there are dead trees that we might want to remove from the trails.
5. Development review: RR1 Zoning changes – Planning Commission has not finalized anything yet. We may want to think about driveway steepness as part of the conservation standards. Kate will talk to Alex about our various positions.
6. Education: 1. Sculpture installation proposal. (We can think about that.) 2. Beavers – They are definitely impacting Shelburne Falls Road – activity has had an impact at this point. Liz has observed that even with a Beaver “deceiver”, there will be maintenance required by the Highway Department, and we should therefore make sure to include them and get their buy-in for anything we might want to do about the beaver activity. Bob says that what Liz has observed is likely not an actual Beaver Deceiver but instead something constructed on site; therefore, it might not work as well as it could. Geprags could be a good educational site. Next step would be to talk to the Highway Dept. about this. Bob reports that the cost would be about \$2,500 to \$3,000. 3. Bob also reports that there are beavers also in Patrick Brook between the new, proposed developments. That could cause problems at some

point. (E.g., it might throw off their stormwater plans. And might impact their Act 250 permit.) Bob might be the best one to document the area – photograph-- since he is the one who noticed the beaver activity. Liz can draft a letter to the Act 250 office to comment on how beavers might affect the proposed stormwater estimates for the floodplain. We will continue to discuss Beaver activity at our next meeting.

7. Water/Wastewater restoration: Several emails back and forth with Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District. They have funds to do tree planting as part of the restoration process near and around the old lagoons. The lagoon closest to the river will be removed, and tree planting could be a beneficial addition to the process. This idea connects to the larger discussion of river corridor conservation, throughout town. Meg will continue this discussion with the Hinesburg Land Trust. New entities are being formed on a regional level to provide grants for projects like this one. We might be able to tap into these funds for a project like this, so the idea has a lot of potential.
8. Review minutes of September 27 and October 11, 2022: Darcie made a motion to approve with Tobie seconding for Sept. 27th. Approved. Kate made a motion to approve with Liz seconding for Oct. 11th. Approved.
9. Nature Notes
10. Adjourn 9:00 PM