



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 14, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom:

1. Call to order: Kate, Meg, Kathy, Bob, Tobi, Liz 7:00 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: Elections are due. Liz nominates Kate to be chair; Liz nominates Bob to be treasurer; Tobi nominates Meg to be secretary; Liz seconded all candidates. Unanimous agreement.
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: none
4. Updates: 7:05 PM
 - a. Geprags management – 1) Bird Habitat -- Tobi looked at the trails committee pamphlet regarding work done on birds at Geprags; we should put it on our website; Tobi will look into putting it on. Joy put up the educational videos, so they are on the website now. Tobi contacted Mark LaBarr. He can get us Partners Program funding (Fish & Wildlife Grant) to match what we can provide so that we can do habitat management work. Range for work: \$1600 - \$3,000. (\$6,000 total max) We have the funding to do this work. Because the winter has been so warm, we might have missed the window to do it this year. We might have to get on a list for next winter. 2) Parsnip control – Tobi wrote up a simple plan and will send that out. Mark made suggestions for best practices. We can discuss this plan at our next meeting. 3) Signs – Trails committee suggested new signs for all the town trails (at the Kiosks). Bob will help the trails committee with building a new bridge to access the west side of the park. 3) NE Natural History Conference Field trip – Friday April 21st. About 10 people. Carpool. Looking at invertebrates. Unanimous agreement that this will be fine.
 - b. Education subcommittee – Tobi and Meg: Our Better Nature Book Club in collaboration with the library; Bird banding with Mark LaBarr; Bob – beaver walk; Kate – herp walk; Wildflowers etc. We can set up a series so that there is some consistency to the schedule.
 - c. Request re: Vermont Invasive (Management) Day: Discussion around invasives; Kate will draft a general letter of support. Everyone agreed that this would be good.
 - d. Grant update & discussion (AVCC Tiny Grant): Bob submitted Watershed grant for beaver work; Does anyone want to apply for an AVCC grant? Think about it for May

timeline. Maybe a bridge to access the western part of the park? Everyone can think about that.

- e. Development review updates: St. Hilaire property – Liz emailed written comments which did not appear to be reflected in the decision. Wondering how the CC feedback impacts the decision-making process. Liz suggested we might want to do some strategic planning in conjunction with the Hinesburg Land Trust. Liz introduced the 30 by 30 initiative (30% conserved by 2030) Perhaps we could do a mapping exercise to demonstrate what that looks like. This is an international movement. Some scientists think it should be 50%. Very complex -- social, political etc. As a conservation organization, we might want to introduce this to the town. Bob suggested having a score card for the year that we can point to to demonstrate how we are doing year-to-year. This would potentially be controversial.
5. Aquatic invasive species/wake boat management petition: Wake boats -- DEC has decided to take up rulemaking. DEC has proposed the general concept of the rule and is holding a Public Hearing to get feedback on that concept. The proposed rule is: 500 feet from shore; 20-foot depth; 50 contiguous acres; Home Lake Rule. Bob made a motion to have Kate speak on behalf of the CC. Tobi seconded. Everyone voted to have Kate speak on behalf of the CC. (Meg abstained)
6. Chittenden County CC Regional Meeting – Feb. 22, 6-8 PM: Kate is planning to attend.
7. Town meeting display – Informational Meeting only now that the Town has gone to Australian Ballot. March 6, 6 PM: Maggie Gordon requested that we set up a table. Kate will clarify what we are expected to do. Maybe we will do something. Maybe not. Details to follow.
8. Review minutes of January 10, 2022: Tobi made a motion to approve; Bob seconded; passed unanimously
9. Nature Notes
10. Adjourn

9:00 PM