

# **HINESBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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*Rob Farley, Dave Hirth, Charles Kogge, Melissa Levy, Bill Marks,  
Nancy Plunkett, Matthew Probasco (Chair), Kristen Sharpless,*

## *MINUTES of February 23, 2009*

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the Hinesburg Conservation Commission (HCC) was called to order at 7:10 pm on February 23, 2009 at the Hinesburg Town Hall by Matthew Probasco.

**Present:** Charles Kogge, Melissa Levy, Bill Marks, Matthew Probasco, Kristen Sharpless

**Absent:** Rob Farley, Dave Hirth, Nancy Plunkett

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of January 26, 2009 were approved.

### **Greenspace Plan**

Bill, Matthew and Melissa agreed to comprise the subcommittee that will review the Greenspace Plan since Nancy and Rob are not currently available. The subcommittee will edit the Plan into a common voice, identify inconsistencies and gaps in knowledge, and trim down the length. The goal is still to present the edited version of the Plan to the Planning Commission at the beginning of May.

Bill expressed concern that the Wildlife section of the plan is missing specific information on important wildlife habitats in town. Kristen agreed to revisit this section in order to identify these habitats and/or recommend methods for identifying these habitats.

Matthew will ask Gerry for an update on the maps that are a part of the Plan so that everyone can have the most current versions.

### **Rural Zoning**

Bill reported that he attended a Planning Commission meeting at which both the sliding scale and "Norwich" models of rural zoning were discussed. Bill will write a memo documenting the Conservation Commission's recommendation that the Planning Commission seriously consider a version of the "Norwich model" which takes such additional factors as road type and contiguousness to conserved land as relevant to conservation – not just lot size - into account when determining the number of allowable subdivisions on a parcel. The Conservation Commission will review and discuss Bill's memo at our next meeting before sending an official copy to the Planning Commission.

### **HCC Web Site**

Charlie reported that the website is ready to go live.

Matthew will approach Jeanne for approval before having the website go live. CC members will review the website material one final time and send Charlie any edits before our next meeting.

Charlie will show Melissa how to upload approved minutes directly to the website.

### **Updating Bylaws**

Matthew presented an updated version of the CC's bylaws for members' approval. Bill and Nancy revised the bylaws to reflect the CC's current practices and policies.

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A motion was seconded to approve the new bylaws and all present approved.

## ***Dam 7 Lot PRD***

It was reported that a deer yard was not identified on the Dam 7 Lot. After visiting the property, Dave had reported that he believes that there may be vernal pools on the site, but would have to return in the spring to check.

## ***Vacant Seat***

Members agreed that the vacant seat needs to be advertised.

The meeting was closed at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by:      Kristen Sharpless

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