



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802-482-2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2016

- Approved 1/26/16 -

Members Present: Alison Lesure, Merrily Lovell, Bill Marks

Members Absent: Meg Handler

Guests: Shannon Kelly

1. Call to order at 7:13 pm.
2. **Visitor Shannon Kelly is interested in joining the Commission.** Members shared their backgrounds and interests, as well as an overview of the Conservation Commission activities and responsibilities. Alison will provide Shannon with the application and policy and procedures for applying for one of the Commission's vacant seats.
3. **Minutes** - Approved December 8, 2015 minutes.
4. **Intertown Meeting of Conservation Commissions** – Meg and Alison will attend. Commissions were requested to prepare a 15 minute presentation introducing themselves and a case study of a completed project (including scope, requirements, process, resources, challenges, and outcomes). Members discussed what would be good examples of meaningful and thought provoking work of the Commission to share with the other Commissions present at the meeting and decided the Greenspace Plan (GSP) and management of Geprags would be two good options. Alison will request printed copies of the current draft of the GSP from Alex and prepare a short presentation for the meeting.
5. **Activities for 2016** – Alison reminded everyone about annual activities such as Green-Up day in May and National Trails day in June. Other ideas for activities in 2016 include a sledding party at Geprags in February with refreshments and hot drinks in the barn, an invasive species project such as tackling wild parsnip at Geprags, and what recommendations of the GSP the Commission can focus on and build events/education/projects around that have not been addressed yet through zoning and other measures. In preparation for developing an invasive species project, Merrily will reach out to Elizabeth Spinney, Invasives Coordinator at VT Dept. of Parks and Recreation and invite her a meeting in March. Alison will reach out to Jens Hilke of Vermont Fish and Wildlife and invite him to join a meeting in February to share his advice on

how to proceed with the GSP. Merrily will also reach out to Trevor to get an update on where review of GSP stands (i.e., when it will be on Select Board's agenda to review and approve for incorporation into Town Plan).

6. **Proposed PC Zoning Revisions - Solar Screenings** – Members shared their thoughts on solar projects and screenings. Bill will likely attend the PC hearing on January 13th.
7. **Geprags** – Merrily made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$500.00 for the new Geprags sign, Bill seconded, all in favor. There is still trail work to be done on the upper portion of the NW trail (downed logs to remove).
8. **VT Gas Pipeline** – Merrily will follow up with Trevor to get an update on the status of the VT Gas pipeline in Hinesburg. The Commission is still desires to be kept abreast of activities and be involved in discussions about the plans and possible compensation the Town may agree to and receive as a result of the pipeline traveling through Geprags.
9. Adjourn 8:32 p.m.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2016

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Lesure