



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom:

1. Call to order: Kate Kelly, Bob Hyams, Meg Handler, Darcie Mumley and Liz Doran present
7:00 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: Kate added request from the Intervale Conservation Nursery (Christine Kramer) to take some cuttings from Balsam Poplars in Geprags in order to grow and distribute them for restoration plantings. Everyone is in agreement that this is a worthwhile project.
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: no members of the public
4. Geprags Park: 1) emailed request from VGS: Bob has reviewed the VGS request and agreement but found that if the drilled pipeline fails for some reason, VGS has the right to replace it with a conventional pipeline. Therefore, we probably don't want to give up the restoration requirements just in case. It's probably a good idea for them to have to check in with us once a year to make sure everything is fine. Conclusion: We don't want to relieve them of their responsibilities in case things change. Bob will write a letter to that effect. 2) Beavers: Bob reported on the beaver activity and the benefits they confer on the wetland. CC members visited the site this past month. Bob will reach out to experts to find out how much it will cost to install a Beaver Deceiver in order to proactively protect the culvert on the Hinesburg-Shelburne Road. We can think about ways to educate the public about the benefits of beavers.
5. Development Review: 1) Kate asked Mitch about the Baldwin application. Mitch described it as a "reverse subdivision" where they want to farm rather than subdivide. They are paying taxes on the building lots and don't want to continue. Kate questioned the implications of making one larger lot and Mitch will explore that question. 2) Hinesburg Center II is coming back into view. We have already expressed our opinion that we should not allow building in the floodplain. Bob will follow up on work done by Mike Kline evaluating Patrick Brook and how we might encourage restoration work as part of the development. Bob will also ask Mitch about the process of coordinating with the State about filling in the floodplain. 3) Frost – Looked at overview of project. Talked about

various ideas. They are at Final with this plan. Perhaps we could suggest some restoration work to counteract the loss of forested area. Kate will follow up on this.

6. Other projects for this spring: 1) Kate will be talking with Jesse Mohr and organizing amphibian crossing work throughout town this spring. There will be a few nights in April or May for volunteers to do surveys in Hinesburg. 2) Everyone should think about ideas for this year's AVCC Tiny Grant. 3) Kate will be doing her Lewis Creek Association water quality presentation again. Bob suggested integrating information about beavers.
7. Review minutes of January 11, 2022: Liz made a motion to approve minutes; Kate seconded. Unanimously approved.
8. Nature Notes – LCA has made tracking cards that can be purchased on the website.
9. Adjourn 8:40 PM