



## **Conservation Commission**

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802-482-2281 | Hinesburg.org

**Meeting Minutes– Tuesday January 14, 2020**

**Hinesburg Town Hall, 3rd floor conference room – 7:00 PM**

1. Call to order 7:00 pm  
Kate Kelly, George Leclair, Michael Bissonette, Marie Ayer, Meg Handler, Bob Hyams  
  
Guest Darcie Mumley
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda 7:00 pm
3. Habitat management at Geprags Park 7:00 pm  
Kate shared that the winter work should be starting next week. CC will be posting information about the closure of trails and the work this weekend.
4. Hinesburg /La Platte Floodplain conservation 7:05 pm  
Kate sharing the information that was discussed by interested parties in town. They are looking to conserve land around LaPlatte River and Patrick Brook. The event that is triggering this is the United Church looking to sell the Baptist lot adjacent to the HCS fields. This is an opportunity to have the town working to really conserve the land and create buffers around the LaPlatte River.  
CC wanted to add this topic of conserving the land around the LaPlatte River.
5. Reappointments/ Committee roles 7:15 pm  
Mike mentioned that he was willing to step down, as Kate is willing to take on chair. Marie is willing to pass on the role of secretary.
6. Update Natural Resource Mapping update 7:20 pm  
Bob said that we should be hearing from Jess in February and he will have a draft. He would like to present it to the CC and other interested boards. The meeting may be potentially be set up in March. CC had a conversation about our vision for the use of this mapping project. This conversation will continue throughout the next meetings.
7. Missing Town website minutes 7:28 pm  
We are just missing October. Minutes were updated on the website.



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### **8. Haystack Crossing letter discussion**

7:30 pm

Mike talked about the letter needed to be earlier on in the process and each name should have been listed on the end. Some of the points addressed in the letter were not really in the regs. This opened up a discussion of the CC role and how to we advocate for conservation and address development projects.

Ben Avery had approached the CC years ago for ideas and how to meet the needs. Meg said the CC group was different and was more focused on stopping instead of taking a proactive approach. She said the developer should get credit for that.

### **9. Forum**

7:40pm

VT Gas payment of \$3,000 has been received.

Bob mentioned that Liza Morse, Grassland Bird Outreach would like to present to the town. They would like to schedule a talk either February-April. CC will work in February to really focus on getting the word out and inviting landowners. Meg will contact Liza to pick a date. Marie will call about the cost of mailings and check in with the Town Clerk's office about a master list.

Kate mentioned doing a vernal pool tour on Hayden Hill for those interested in the spring.

Meg brought up the controversy surrounding Lake Iroquois and the application of herbicide. Wondering about some sort of educational offering on water quality and the pros and cons in a balanced way. CC had a conversation about ways that the information could be presented to residents to inform them of options. Mike suggested that the best way might be to have towns that have dealt with this issue to come in to present their experiences. Bob clarified this was more of a way to see if there is a way the CC could help facilitate this.

### **10. Nature Notes Adjourn**

8:20 pm

Kate went out during the warm rainy night in New Haven where amphibians cross and saw three different frogs. Christmas day George had a large bear at his camp. Meg is reading the book The Secret Lives of Trees.

Adjourn

\*This agenda did not get posted in time. Therefore it will be a discussion only meeting.