



## Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg  
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### Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2018 Hinesburg Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

- Draft -

#### 1. Call to Order - 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Kate, Mike, George, Marie, Bob, Meg  
Visitors: Lynn, Mark LaBarr

#### 2. Additions/Deletions to agenda

Bob wants to discuss the mowing schedule at Geprags Park and the plan for June 2, National Trails Day.

#### 3. Mark Labarr- Audubon Vermont 7:05 pm

*Town Hall on Thursday, May 10th--Golden Winged Warbler Presentation "There and Back Again.." from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

Geolocators placed on the Golden-winged Warblers to track their winter migration as they left locations in Vermont, including Geprags. One showed up Columbia and one made it to Costa Rica. Their results will be talked about and shared. The habitat in Vermont is only in the Champlain Valley where there is nearby forest. *On May 19th at 8:00 a.m., they will try and capture some at Geprags' Park to band.* They hope to recruit landowners and others to encourage the management of their property to encourage the further growth of the population. Audubon will work with landowners to help with funding and also continue to help support them over the years in maintaining the land. CC will sponsor both the Town Hall presentation and the event at Geprags Park.

#### Geprags Park Update

Bob has a completed management plan draft for the park. Discussion on ways to continue fostering the habitat for Golden-winged Warbler and other native species. There is \$3,000 a year in Vermont Gas money to help support plantings and/or the clearing of invasive species that are taking over areas and crowding out native plants. \$1,200 an acre to hire the Brontosaurus machine that would be quicker to clear out the invasive species shrubs. Bob will bring the plan to the next meeting and a list of things that need to get done. Other options like getting volunteers from CVU to help with managing the invasive species.

Natural Resources Conservation Program (EQIP) allocates funds for local landowners for land management.

#### **4. Mapping project follow up. Discussion, impressions, next steps**

Bob ran into Jesse Mohr who was main person behind the Charlotte mapping project. He would be interested in coming to talk with the board. Discussion on inviting the Planning Commission to also hear him to be able to ask questions and see how the map would benefit the town and how it could be used. RFP should be developed to show what we want and then maybe present this to the various boards? Meg will meet with Alex and create an RFP around the layers of the wildlife/corridor map that would be helpful for the town. Mapping project could be a cost of \$15,000-\$20,000.

#### **5. Dog Park**

Kate was checking in as to where we are with this project. Bob moves that we ask them to search for another site away from the Geprags Park. Kate seconds the motion. 6 votes to 0

#### **6. Volunteer projects**

Mike suggests that we need to make a list of items that could be done as volunteers contact us. Birdhouses in the park need cleaning and some are tipping over and need fixing.

Spring of 2019 Plantings in the park - tapping into Hinesburg Students and CVU students to help?

AVCC Mini-Grant Money was won by CC for the bat houses. CVU has already made 9. They are hoping to have about 15. George will contact Fish and Wildlife to get a bat speaker to go to CVU. Possibly supporting Trout in the Classroom for students.

#### **7. Board April reorganization discussion**

Current bylaws state positions are held for two years.

#### **8. Forum**

Mowing Schedule with Bob Wahl--

- Trails need mowing at least twice a year - 1st week of June and 1st week of August
- Field Mowing - once a year in fall
- Bob is asking Bill for the key to the shed

Invite Vermont Gas to come in to talk about any possible management plan for the area above and around the pipeline.

June 2nd is National Trails Day. Time TBD - Bog bridge, no dog signs need to go up, and erosion on some of the trails.

Work Plan - web page creation - explore costs and ways to use it.

## **9. Approval of Minutes**

- April 10, 2018 – wait

Send out email to all with the notes included, when they are posted.

## **10. Nature Notes**

- Meg didn't run from a snake!
- Kate went to Geprags a few weeks ago and walked to pond and found Green Frogs. At other sites, saw some Wood Frogs hatching and a good size DeKay's Brownsnake.
- George says the bears are moving. Bobcats are also moving.
- Bob has NRCS site visits and seeing wetlands and saw a Milksnake and bobolinks.
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Marie

- Lynn moved to new location out on Thompson's Point and full of wildlife during the day and at night it is complete silence.

Meg

- Mike when he pulled a tap from the tree and recorded the sound of the tree sucking in the air.

## **11. Adjourn**

### **Future:**

- Mission Statement Discussion
- Should the CC take a position on Hannaford's project as it is in front of the DRB