



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Meeting Minutes - July 14, 2020

Present: Meg Handler, Kate Kelly, Marie Ayer, Bob Hyams, Darcie Mumley entered the meeting a few minutes late

1. Call to Order: 7:10 PM
2. Add to Agenda: Mowing at Geprags – Need Mike to discuss this.
3. Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items: No public present.
4. Updates:
 1. Natural Resources Inventory – Jesse made site visits; sent some text that accompanies various layers. Reviewed by various individuals, not the full commission. He is hoping to have a draft map soon (late July/early Aug.)
 2. Geprags Signs – Ordered signs before the deadline; signs have come in. We will install signs at our next meeting. Kate will check with Renee about whether we can hold an in-person (distanced) meeting at Geprags (with notice to the public).
 3. Library thanked us for allowing them to do the Story Walk.
5. Development Review:

Bob gave update on Haystack Crossing. Patrick Brook has 100-foot buffers on both sides. Haystack is proposing to discharge stormwater 60 feet from the stream. The buffer is not in great shape. Not clear what the stormwater will do once it is discharged. Concern that this will exacerbate the erosion already happening at Patrick Brook.

Question: who will be responsible if erosion occurs. Lyman owns both sides of the brook. But Haystack will be discharging from its stormwater pond. It would be great to get both buffers under one management unit. Recommend a site visit.

Bob to follow up with Mitch and Alex.

DRB Preliminary Review might be wrapped up at the next meeting.

Hinesburg Center:

Meg to reach out to Mitch to ask about timeline for Town Center Phase II.

Belliveau Development:

(Right in town, next to the Church) Just bringing it up to see if we have any concerns about the Development. Perhaps we could recommend improvements to the lot to protect the stream – more plantings etc.

Comparison to Other Towns Regarding Development Review:

Kate spoke to several other Towns (Essex, Cornwall, Jericho, Sharon, Monkton). Kate put together a Word document summarizing what she found.

6. Geprags Discussion:

ChicMcArthur sent a message regarding trail maintenance. Wahl appears to be mowing the wrong pathway. Mike will contact Wahl to make sure they mow to the bridge. Chic also requests that someone trim the raspberry bushes. Perhaps we could trim at our next meeting, when we meet there. We also need to trim around the sign. Kate will ask Mike to remind Wahl to mow around the sign. Also, need to do area around the kiosk so that we control the poison parsnip.

7. Kestrel Nest Boxes:

Kate spoke to someone in Wisconsin about building nest boxes and doing bird banding. Kestrels are in decline. Mark LaBarr (Audubon) thought it might be interesting. No one volunteered to take this on.

8. Other Business and Correspondence:

Someone from Vermont Gas called to follow up regarding management in the Vermont Gas easement. Perhaps we should hear from them regarding their long term plans for management in the easement. Kate will ask them to write something regarding their plans.

Grassland Bird Talks: Kate wondering if we should pursue an online version of this. Perhaps we could do an outdoor, distanced version of a birdwalk. Maybe we could do something for kids, if the kids don't go back to school in person. We could also partner with the Library. We could do a scavenger hunt. All schools should be announcing their plans at the beginning of August.

9. Motion to Approve Minutes:

Meg H. made a motion to accept the minutes of May 12th, June 9th and June 23rd made. Seconded by Bob Hyams. The motion passed 5-0.

10. Nature Notes:

Meeting Adjourned: 8:32 p.m.