



## Conservation Commission

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

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### Hinesburg Conservation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 - 7:00 PM

MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY  
Due to closure of Hinesburg Town Hall

**Present:** Michael Bissonette, Robert Hyams, Meg Handler, Darcie Mumley, Kate Kelly

**Absent:** Marie Ayer

1. Call to order 7:05 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: None
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: No public present

While we waited for one member to arrive, Kate reminded Commissioners to swing by Town Hall to sign the updated By-laws. She updated the Commission on some feedback regarding the new signs at Geprags, and the confusion surrounding them.

#### 4. Budget discussion

Kate displayed the current budget on the screen, and explained how funds for the Natural Resources Inventory are in reserve, so although they aren't showing on the budget, are still available to pay Jesse Mohr.

The Commission agreed that tree planting line item should not be in our budget; it could go to the Select Board budget or somewhere else appropriate. Meg suggested that the LIA and LCA line items should also be removed from the CC budget and added to the regular town budget for discussion at Town Meeting. Michael felt all those organizations should be moved to this area, as they are separate missions/organizations. Robert H. suggested we want to advocate for LCA before the Select Board, as we work closely with them/LCA. All agreed (with Kate recusing herself from LCA discussion) that LCA, LIA, and tree planting should be removed from our budget, as we don't contract services. Kate will submit budget omitting LCA and Lake Iroquois, with email explanation and acknowledgment that LCA's work aligns with our values and is important to the town. Request to Renae for LIA and LCA to go into non-profit requests (agency request review committee). This review committee takes all requests, reviews them, forwards to the SB, who approves of a sum to forward to Town Meeting day request as an article.

Mike suggested an increase to \$3300 for mowing. All agreed, so we could have the park mowed an extra time as we did this year.

Regarding the natural resources inventory phase 2, Meg suggested requesting some funding over 3 years. Meg suggested \$5000/year over several years (4 years). Michael recommended explaining that we have a product and we're trying to do it in modules. (Kate noted we should have a product to show by then, as our training for NRI mapper will be Oct. 19). Others suggested increasing this amount to \$6000/year (as Jesse Mohr recommended "modules" that could be done for between \$5000-7000 each), and all agreed.

Meg suggested changing Bat House grant to CVU collaboration. She has other ideas like a pollinator garden at Geprags. We're not ready to ask for anything yet because of COVID, but we'd like to continue with these joint efforts and keep this item in our budget.

Michael asked about other potential park work: main sign, benches, etc. We will think about this for next year's budget.

#### 5. Other Business & Correspondence (erosion control matting, water quality)

Kate described the letter received from LCA, suggesting a visit and a presentation on water quality, aquatic invasive species, or just a discussion on how we could work together on projects. Meg suggested opening this to the public and including both landowners and commissions steps. Michael suggested scheduling this for some point soon.

Jesse Mohr would like to schedule a NRI training for online map: Oct. 19, 7 PM. Invite the steering committee. After the training, people will have 2 weeks to experiment with the mapper and provide any last feedback or edits on the online mapper, map content, and supporting narrative.

Erosion control matting – Kate updated on how plastic erosion control matting kills snakes, and how Hinesburg is hopefully moving away from using it with the new mulcher they have.

Michael asked about Hinesburg Center Phase 2, and what are the next steps. Bob noted that at minimum, we should assign someone to follow the application. Meg/Kate will follow and attend meetings. Michael suggested contacting Mitch to give feedback; Meg will do this. Kate will send out a summary of the application after the next DRB meeting (Oct. 6, 7:30 PM). Kate will remind via email.

Bob will write a blurb for FPF on NRI, after the training session with Jesse.

#### 6. Review minutes of July 14, August 11, & Sept. 8, 2020 meetings

Michael B. made a motion to accept all three minutes. Darcie M. seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Next meeting will be Oct. 13, 7-9 PM.

7. Nature Notes

Leaves changing color. Snapping Turtle moving on Lewis Creek Rd. Identifying scat. Snakes moving to overwintering sites. Bat in the house, and a lot of deer.

8. Adjourn

8:25 PM