



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Minutes (Special Meeting)

Monday, November 16, 2020 - 7:00 PM

MEETING HELD REMOTELY

Due to closure of Hinesburg Town Hall

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

Present: Darcie Mumley, Kate Kelly, Meg Handler, Robert Hyams, Marie Ayer, Michael Bissonette
Select Board: Merrily Lovell
Martha Illick from the Lewis Creek Association (LCA)

2. Additions/Deletions to agenda

Discuss updated information regarding Hinesburg Center 2 and Patrick Brook.

2. Public Comment for non-agenda items

7:02 PM

None

3. Budget discussion

7:05 PM

Kate and Robert recused themselves from this discussion. Marie is running the meeting.

CC to discuss whether or not to remove the LCA and LIA for the CC budget and move it somewhere else in the town's budget. Merrily confirmed that these line items can be moved to the new area of the budget, Boards and Committees. She also stated that the LIA is going to present to the SB on December 2, 2020 (same night as the CC presentation).

Marie is concerned that this is not a good year to be moving the budget around because of COVID.

Meg recommended keeping these in our budget so the CC can make better recommendations to the SB. Darcie agreed and said it would benefit the CC to have visibility on the organizations that we work with every year.

Michael is concerned whether or not the CC is receiving contracted services with these organizations. He feels that the CC needs to think about what is being provided. Should LIA be working with Lake Iroquois Recreation District? And should the CC only be asking for organizations that provide services at the request of the CC?

Meg would like to put money into the Land Conservation Fund, and should this be added into our budget? She would like to see the CC make it a priority to consistently contribute to the Land Conservation Fund.

Martha discussed that the goal of the LCA be more tightly linked with each town's CC. The water sampling and overall goals of both organizations are in line with each other. Kate has presented the LCA water quality presentation to the CC and the LCA would like to continue to work alongside the CC on current and future projects.

On a side note: Martha explained how Charlotte CC holds easement of \$5,000.00 for conservation work. She suggested that the CC work with the Land Trust on projecting future projects coming down the pipeline. This would allow the CC, as well as the SB, to be aware of future projects and know how much funding to put aside.

Further discussions about leaving the LCA and LIA items on the CC budget could act as a reminder to the CC to work closely with these organizations and not just hand out the same amount of funding each year. The organizations should be presenting to the Conservation Commission. This would help the SB by allowing the CC to help them make budget decisions in regards to conservation organizations.

Motion made by Meg to rescind our previous request to SB in regards to moving LCA and LIA from our budget. Marie seconded this request and all in favor.

All agreed that the \$6,000.00 for NRI starting in the next phase and the \$200.00 for general operations items should stay as they are on the budget.

Mowing moved down to \$2920.00 as long as the contractor is also going to stay at the same price. The trails committee asked to mow one extra time. This extra mowing would increase the cost and the mowing should be left at \$3300.00(+/-).

Motion made by Michael for total budget amount of \$9700.00. Motion seconded by Darcie. Everyone but Meg in favor. Meg is opposed because she would like to see \$1,000 for land conservation. Budget passed without Meg's vote. However, the CC agreed that they should speak with The Vermont and/or Hinesburg Land Trusts to see what projects are coming down the pipeline. The CC could request a new line item in next year's budget.

Discussion on whether or not the CC would like to make specific comments during the SB budget meetings in regards to LIA's and LCA's funding. LCA is asking for an additional \$1,000.00 (+/-). Some members did not feel like they were educated enough on the organizations to do so. Some felt strongly that hearing the Dec. 2 presentations will help the SB make a decision on funding and the CC to better understand the requests. CC decided to gather information on budgets of these groups, listen to the presentations, and talk about this at our next meeting on December 8th, then could make recommendations to the SB if we choose to.

Geprags mowing amended to \$2920.00 per Michael's confirmation from the vendor during this meeting.

Motion to readjust Geprags mowing budget to \$2920. Marie and Meg seconded. All in favor.

\$550.00 is in the budget for LCA. The LCA has requested an additional amount for water quality monitoring. They have made this request to the SB. The CC is leaving this line item at \$550.00 on the CC budget.

6. Hinesburg Center II

Meg spoke with Alex Weinhausen (Planning and zoning) and said we could advocate to not allow the developer to fill in the flood plain. We could/should submit our input in to the DRB soon. CC agreed to advocate for better protection of the flood plain. Meg is going to contact the LCA, Flood plain protections at DEC and the Floodplain Manager to help put together a letter that the CC can vote on during the Dec. 8th meeting.

Bob will reach out to see if any other Vermont CCs have suggestions or experience in protecting a flood plane from being filled in.

Alex Weinhausen (Director of Planning and Zoning) has gotten permission from owners to look at Patrick Brook Corridor.

7. Nature Notes

8:37 PM

Kate went to see the snow Geese in Addison

8. Meeting Adjourned

8:38 PM