



## Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802.482.2281 | [hinesburg.org](http://hinesburg.org)

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### Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - 7:00 PM

1. Call to order – Kate Kelly, Meg Handler, Marie Ayer, Mike Bissonette, Darcie Mumley and Liz Doran, all present.
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items – No members of the public present at meeting
4. News/Communications –

Patrick Brook corridor --

How should we share Mike Kline's report? Discussion about how best to put it out to the public. It is a public document. Should be up on the website available to everyone.

NRI map –

Front Porch Forum post went out (Bob Hyams) with positive responses. Jesse will be doing one more training this Spring, for the public.

Raise the Blade –

That will be moving forward in March

Lake Iroquois Watershed Action Plan grant –

Lewis Creek Assoc. has joined forces with LIA and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District to apply for a grant to look at projects to improve water quality in the Patrick Brook Watershed. Goal – to compile studies and recommendations and to work with an engineer to rank and prioritize properties and projects in order to generate a list of future projects to pursue.

Discussion of ideas related to this.

Lake Iroquois Association communication –

LIA sent letter to Kate expressing concerns with their interactions with the CC. They feel the CC has some hostility toward LIA. Requested that Kate clarify that Meg's comments to the Selectboard were made on her own behalf, and not representing the CC. (Kate already did this.) LIA requested a formal vote by the CC as to whether the CC wants to work with LIA on mutual projects. Also requested a formal statement of the CC's goals and values. Discussion of this topic followed. Bob Hyams moved that the CC is open to working with LIA on collaborative projects. Seconded by Mike Bissonette. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Elections (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) –Kate will be chair, Bob will be treasurer and Meg will be secretary. Voted and passed unanimously.
6. NRI phase 2 – next steps: (Wildlife Road Crossings, Updated Wetland Mapping, Significant Natural Community Inventory & Assessment, Biological Assessment of Unconfirmed Vernal Pools, Priority Connectivity and Interior Forest Block Site Visits) – Discussion of all these options and which would be the CC's first priority. These new projects would add more detail to the map Jesse has already prepared. The CC would facilitate securing landowner permission. Discussion of options. Kate will reach out to Jesse expressing the CC's preference for Priority Connectivity and Interior Forest Block Site Visits.
7. Other potential 2021 projects –

Regulations changes (RR1 District); Geprags work, articles/outreach, AVCC Tiny Grant. Discussion of these ideas. Discussion about what our goals are, before we can address individual projects. How can we channel growth in a way that preserves our rural districts? Kate and Bob will attend Planning Commission meeting to express the CC's willingness to support stronger RR1 regulations. Bob suggested a project to build a new bridge at Geprags (the old one was flooded out by beavers). Bob thinks the boy scouts might be interested in taking this on. Bob will research wetland and sizing requirements. Darcie will talk to trails committee. Bob will talk to State Wetlands Division.

8. Parkinson application –

On the agenda for next Tues. DRB meeting; Mike tried to talk with landowner ahead of the meeting, but he said no, he only wants to talk at the meeting. CC concerns: steep slopes, cutting into a forest block etc. Discussion of how best to approach this development. The CC would like to formalize the process for early review of development applications. This includes a more formal structure for CC review, with defined parameters. Mike will send a letter and attend the meeting next week.

9. Review minutes of January 12 and January 21, 2021—motion to approve by Bob Hyams. Seconded by Mike Bissonette. Minutes are approved unanimously.
10. Nature Notes
11. Adjourned at 9:07pm.