



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 - 7:00 PM

MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY

Due to closure of Hinesburg Town Hall

1. Call to order – Present: Kate Kelly, Meg Handler, Bob Hyams, Liz Doran, Darcie Mumley, Marie Ayer, Nina Friscia, Denver Wilson (Planning Commission)
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda -- none
3. Vote on re-joining AVCC -- Motion to rejoin brought by Bob. Seconded by Darcie. Unanimous vote to rejoin.
4. Discuss meeting schedule – whether to split longer meetings into 2 shorter meetings per month. Discussion of pros and cons. Decision to pencil in a 2nd meeting and Kate will decide at the first meeting whether to have a 2nd meeting.
5. Planning Commission (PC) update – Denver Wilson came to the meeting to discuss RR1 Zoning Regulations & River Corridor Regulations. Timeframe – Planning Commission will take this up in May or June. Dropbox link sent around for relevant materials. RR1 District contains a number of different areas. Some areas might need greater protection than others (e.g., forest blocks and wildlife corridors). Those areas more deserving of protection might be re-zoned to make it harder for development to encroach on important resources. PC is thinking of taking some areas and giving them more protection, but also taking other areas and allowing greater density. Discussion. We might like to see more details from the PC, so that the CC could see what the denser areas might actually look like with more development. Denver will take that concern back to the PC. Another thing to consider is Patrick Brook. There is development proposed near the brook. But that might pose challenges for water quality. It will take a finer scale of analysis to determine what might be appropriate. This is still early in the PC process. The PC wanted to bring in the CC early in the process. Initiating this collaboration is an important first step. We can work on this together over time. Bob will attend the PC meeting tomorrow night.
6. NRI phase 2 – update from Jesse – Kate reported that Jesse is already booked out this summer. So, anything the CC wants him to do will have to happen next Summer. We should check with the Selectboard to see whether we can push the money to next year's budget.

Jesse advises that tracking will need to be two winters in order to get good data. We should ask Jesse for more details on cost and scheduling. Kate also reported on more details about what Jesse could do as part of the next phase. Should we try to put some pressure on Jesse by conveying a sense of urgency to him? Should we ask him to recommend another consultant to work for us this summer? He could then take whatever data from this coming summer and merge it with his own information. It's worth having this discussion with Jesse as a next step. Kate will talk to Joy and Missy regarding funding first, and then either Kate or Bob will follow up with Jesse for more details and an alternate plan since he is busy.

7. Updates on Geprags trails/bridge – Bob talked to State Wetlands and they said it would be ok to replace bridges and bog bridges. Bob is having trouble reaching out to a Boy Scout Troop. But he will follow up with that. Hoping they will take that on as a project. AVCC Tiny Grant could help fund such a project. Deadline for grants is in May.
8. Parkinson application – Update: Kate attended DRB meeting. Son (Peter) was there to represent the family. Kate mentioned the CC's concerns over steep slopes and forest blocks. Mike Bissonette will talk with Peter (Peter responded to Mike that he is willing to talk with him.) Peter is concerned about how the CC will be impacting the DRB decision. Site visit will be scheduled this spring. No further steps for CC right now.
9. Donovan & O'Donnell application is for housing on the hill across from CVU. Bob took a walk on this site a while back. This area impacts Patrick Brook. There are beavers and other wildlife living there. (Also, wood frogs.) This development would certainly mean that all this ecology would be lost. There are also steep slopes on this parcel. The CC should write a letter voicing our concerns, as the next step. Bob and Liz will take this on.
10. Discussion of DRB process/involvement – Right now, the CC comments on some applications, but not all, as we become aware of issues. Mike suggested we come up with a more defined procedure or role in development review. In response to that suggestion, Kate circulated some material from other towns. Discussion. CC could come up with a checklist or form like those used in other towns, in order to formalize our relationship with the DRB. As a group, we like the idea of developing a form that we could use regularly. It would enhance our participation if we could simplify our responses and establish a more consistent presence with the DRB. This might also structure our meetings so that they are more productive. A form used consistently to document CC assessments of development could also make clear to the DRB how many developments the CC does not oppose. Next steps, Bob and Liz will also work on the form, as part of the process of writing the letter for Donovan and O'Donnell. We will review the form at our next meeting.
11. Review minutes of February 9, 2021 – Darcie made a motion to approve the minutes; Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.
12. Nature Notes --
13. Adjourn

9:10 PM