



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 - 7:00 PM

MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY

Due to closure of Hinesburg Town Hall

1. Call to order – Kate Kelly, Liz Doran, Bob Hyams and Meg Handler present 7:00PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda – Added discussion about the VLT proposal to conserve Carse Property, abutting the Town Forest, on Lincoln Hill Road. The proposal would attempt to wrap into the transaction permanent conservation of the Town Forest so that the whole forest block would be permanently protected. The CC will wait for additional information about what might be expected of us.
3. Parkinson application – Kate attended the DRB site visit; reported on the meeting: culvert is mostly gone and probably undersized. Kate requested that this be replaced and improved. Lower part of the development seems otherwise non-problematic. Upper level of development is off an existing logging road, but owner wants a substantial road running up into the forest, big enough for a fire truck to turn around. Kate and others are concerned about this upper lot. Owner might be willing to give up the upper lot. We should probably vote on this and write a formal letter to the DRB. Meg made a motion that Kate is assigned to speak on behalf of the CC with regard to the Parkinson proposal. Liz seconded. Unanimous vote in favor.
4. Greenup Day – May 1st Kate will pass around a sign-up sheet.
5. Discussion of RR1 Zoning Regulations & River Corridor Regulations – Planning Commission meeting with presentations from the State -- available for review (VCAM) on the Hinesburg Town website. Stream buffers and stream setbacks might be appropriate areas for updating. Possible collaboration opportunity between Planning Commission and CC. Kate had a discussion with Alex regarding RR1 regs. Summary: Planning Commission is happy to take recommendations from the CC. DRB only looks at zoning regs., not at the Town Plan when evaluating proposals. Town Plan might be updated in 2025. Bob will serve as point person for the River Corridor Regulations, and Kate will serve as point person for the discussion of RR1 Zoning Regulations.

6. Natural Resource Inventory Phase 2 – update & next steps – According to Joy, the CC has an NRI Reserve Fund, and we can put funds from this year into that reserve fund in order for the money to carry over into the next year. Meg makes a motion that we request of the selectboard that money in the budget get placed into the NRI Phase 2 Reserve Fund so that it can carry over to next year. Liz seconded. Unanimous vote in favor. In the future, we should plan out modules in advance so that Jesse reserves time in his work schedule for us. Next meeting, we should discuss the order for future plans.
7. Donovan Application: Liz makes a motion to appoint Bob to represent the CC on the Donovan Application. Kate seconds. Passed unanimously.
8. Discussion of DRB process/involvement – Cornwall documents outline a procedure. We can edit that and pass it along to Mitch for feedback. Kate and Liz will work on this process.
9. AVCC Tiny Grant possibilities – Meg is working with people from the Master Naturalist Program to develop a Pollinator Garden. Bob would help to locate it. Kate brought a motion to allow Meg to develop a pollinator garden at Geprags. Seconded by Liz. Passed unanimously.
10. Beaver activity and bridges – Bob will connect with the trails committee.
11. Review minutes of March 7, 2021 – Bob motions to approve the minutes. Liz seconded. Passed unanimously.
12. Adjourn 8:35PM