



## Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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### Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, May 11, 2021 - 7:30 PM**

**MEETING WILL BE HELD REMOTELY**

**Due to closure of Hinesburg Town Hall**

1. Call to order – Present: Kate Kelly, Meg Handler, Darcie Mumley, Liz Doran 7:30 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda – Carse Property letter of support; Raise the blade program; Trails Committee (Trails Day); Vermont Gas letter regarding invasives.
3. Raise the Blade – Selectboard approved adopting the plan; Linda Patterson is speaking with Bob Wahl to plan sites. They are moving forward.
4. Trails Day – June 5<sup>th</sup> Normally CC members help out on that day. Trails Committee wants help from the CC. Discussion about what we can contribute. CC cannot help organize, but can assist on that day.
5. Vermont Gas Letter – Discussion of impact of work VT Gas plans to do along the gas pipeline corridor. They plan to drive an ATV through in order to cut invasives and also to walk through testing the pipe for corrosion. Darcie will reach out to them to make sure they do not drive through the wetland.
6. Public Comment for non-agenda items -- None
7. NRI phase 2 – update & next steps – Kate spoke to Jesse and also to Todd (new Town Manager). Todd suggested we should try to spend the funds we have received in this year, even if we spend it on something else. Jesse thinks he can start tracking this winter, in which case he could spend the \$6,000 in this fiscal year. But if it's a bad tracking winter, he might not be able to spend it in time. We should postpone this discussion to next spring, to see how it plays out. Jesse suggests postponing the educational aspect of this tool, so that those landowners can participate. But maybe it makes sense to start the educational component earlier. Question about whether we should postpone to the fall or do it as originally scheduled in the spring. Discussion. Liz suggested it makes sense to make this

tool available sooner rather than later, and have it tie into the Carse project and also to the form we are developing for the DRB. Everyone agreed with that. Kate will ask Jesse to make his presentation this spring.

8. Carse Project – Bob Heiser (VLT) joined to ask the CC to write a letter of support. Liz volunteered to start a draft letter and has started that process. The CC will need to discuss the funding. Liz is trying to tie funding to the NRI priorities and is continuing to work on that aspect of the letter. Wed. May 19<sup>th</sup> is the Selectboard meeting. Kate made motion to authorize Liz to write the letter to the Selectboard. Darcie seconded. CC voted yes unanimously.
9. Parkinson application, Donovan & O'Donnell updates – Parkinson: The landowner came back and decided to only develop one lot (the one to the West of the existing house) so they are not going ahead with the full plan to put in the road and build the other lots. Donovan/O'Donnell: Bob will be attending the site visit next week. Anyone else is welcome to join.
10. Discussion of DRB process/involvement – Liz shared the form created by the town of Cornwall. We would use a similar form. When a development proposal comes in, we would be notified, and someone on the CC would fill out the form and discuss it with the CC. Liz plans to tweak the form and then we might want to bring it to Mitch and Alex for feedback. Liz will modify the form and Kate will follow up.
11. Review RR1 zoning (map) – The PC is working to “reinforce the rural character” of the RR1 districts. They are looking at two areas in particular. The CC might want to weigh in so that natural resources are considered as part of that revision. Kate will attend the PC meeting tomorrow evening and would like feedback or comments if anyone has them.
12. Tiny Grant – Meg submitted the AVCC Tiny Grant application for a pollinator garden at Geprags. When it comes time to site the garden, the CC should convene at Geprags to look at where it might be best to situate the garden. Perhaps we should plan to meet earlier for our next meeting and meet in person at Geprags.
13. Review minutes of April 13, 2021 – Liz made a motion to approve the minutes. Kate seconded. Unanimously approved.
14. Nature Notes
15. Adjourn 9:00 PM