



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 6:30 PM

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT GEPRAGS PARK (meet in parking lot, then walk trails)

Following all current COVID guidelines

1. Call to order – Present at the meeting: Kate Kelly, Bob Hyams, Liz Doran, Meg Handler Steve Miner (VT Gas, Operations Specialist), Dave Walker (VT Gas, Gas Control and ROW Supervisor), Cisco Shelton (resident), Bill Marks (resident), Barbara Forauer (resident) and Nina Friscia (resident).
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda – none
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items – none
4. Discussion with Vermont Gas re: maintenance path – Steve and Dave explained what VT Gas would like to see in order for them to be able to inspect the gas line running through Geprags Park. Technicians will walk the line, and need a clear path so that they don't get blocked by thick brush. VT Gas does not use drone technology. The line is marked with yellow stakes. Technicians will be using a methane probe, close to the ground. They will also be doing a Close Interval Survey (probes in the ground to read electrical current.) VT Gas would like to work with the CC to establish a low-impact path. CC has concerns about cutting in the wetland. VT Gas would need to come out during a dry time. Steve and Dave said that they know to avoid "RTE" (rare, threatened and endangered species). VT Gas knows that Geprags is a protected area. They intend to walk only the pipeline and nothing else. CC asked that the path not extend all the way to the road. CC does not want to invite the public to use the VT Gas path. Timetable: VT Gas would like to do the inspection soon and would like the CC to supervise any cutting or mowing. They hope to do it by hand so as not to bring in any equipment. Just a narrow footpath. VT Gas will reach out to the CC to schedule the walk. Steve, Dave, Bill and Cisco left after this discussion.
5. Siting of pollinator garden – AVCC Tiny Grant was given to the Hinesburg Conservation Commission (\$600). Discussion of where to site the garden. Recommendations that it be fairly close to the parking area. But it needs to avoid the Sledding Hill. Might be good to dig in the soil, to make sure the site is not too rocky. Perhaps Bob can come along when it is time to start staking it out. Wildflower Farm is willing to donate seed.

6. Farrell DRB application – Kate attended the meeting. The applicant asked to move the building envelope farther up the hill. Kate advocated for keeping it close to the road in order to avoid encroaching upon Core Habitat. It is possible to put a number to this: how much Core Habitat will be destroyed? DRB is planning to do a site visit. Barbara mentioned the Planning Commission’s work on reexamining RR1.
7. Regional Conservation Partnership – Alex has been trying to loop the CC in, along with other towns, such as South Burlington, Williston, St. George etc. Hinesburg has signed on to this partnership to work on large conservation projects that cross town lines.
8. Donovan & O’Donnell – Sketch plan approval has been granted for this 6 lot subdivision (30 acres). All the intact resources will go with lot 6. Liz and Bob wrote comments. Applicants might be open to restrictions on Lot 6 in order to protect resources. CC should explore opportunities to approach the landowners (perhaps someone who already knows them?)
9. NRI public presentation – Scheduled for June 23rd. Liz will draft something for the Citizen, announcing the talk.
10. DRB process – Form for the process was sent to Alex and Mitch. It does not seem to have been well-received.
11. Carse Property – Hinesburg Town Forest has stepped up to offer money to this project.
12. Review minutes of April 13, 2021 – Kate made a few corrections. Motion to Approve.
Approved Unanimously
13. Nature Notes
14. Adjourned at 8:30pm