



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Hinesburg Town Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Present: Meg Handler, Kate Kelly, Bob Hyams, Liz Doran

Public Present: Chrissy Driver, Barbara Forauer, Nina Friscia, Dena Monahan

1. Call to order - 7:12 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda – Wakeboats, Development on Mechanicsville Rd., Geprags walk, mail
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items - None
4. Development on Mechanicsville – Bob met with landowners, and they are not prepared to do full buildout. Discussion regarding filling out form and submitting comments to DRB (also sending a memo to the DRB re: the form and our procedure for commenting). Comments were made about sewer and cul-de-sacs. Keeping trail close to houses to protect forests. Bob made a motion to make Liz the point person on the Laster application, with Darcie as backup. Meg seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Natural Resources Inventory - Jesse to do winter tracking this winter, followed by forest block work. Re: citizen involvement – Kate will reach out to Jesse to get his feedback. FPF post needed about NRI. Liz will write FPF post. Kate will send link to our website to Liz and CC. Potential for Citizen/Record press release if it is not already covered – add to next agenda.
6. RR1 Discussion
Kate described discussion with Jens re: forest or conservation district. The Commission liked this idea, although it would be a longer process and project than just revising RR1 regulations. Moving RR1 forest sections into RR2 may be a good temporary fix until a larger discussion about forest/conservation district. Invite Todd Odit to a meeting to meet him and have a discussion. Kate to clarify conversation with Jens, and draft a letter to PC re: forest blocks and connectivity, then send around Waitsfield zoning regs to CC. Barbara F. felt it would be most helpful to specify areas the CC wants protected & why, then follow up with maps. Kate will draft letter to send to Liz for edits. Add to next agenda to discuss/finalize materials to send to PC.

Brief discussion of Lemay DRB application, and what conserved lot means. Kate shared e-mail from Mitchel Cypes regarding the property. It will be heard in August; CC will review and discuss at our next meeting.

7. Pollinator garden

Meg said they decided to situate it next to trail and kiosk/shed/entrance at Geprags. They have removed poison parsnip, but there is still poison ivy. Rent goats?

8. Education budget ideas

CC will explore bat detector more thoroughly, to be determined soon.

9. Wakeboat – There is statewide group urging DEC to look into management strategies for

wakeboats, that are potentially damaging to the environment. Meg is on the committee that will bring a petition to DEC to use their rulemaking capacity to look into management strategies. She has a factsheet and video she will circulate. She will be coming to the CC to ask for our support of the petition.

10. Date/time for Geprags walk with VT Gas - Nina and Bob interested in participating with Kate.

Kate will propose some times after the first week of August to VT Gas.

11. Mail – Kate reviewed new book and some thank you notes received in the mail.

12. Review minutes of June 8, 2021

Kate made a minor edit. Liz made a motion to approve the amended minutes, Bob seconded, and minutes were approved unanimously.

13. Nature Notes

14. Adjourn – 8:45 PM