



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg
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Meeting Minutes - Tuesday, May 14, 2019 Hinesburg Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 PM

Present: Michael Bissonette, Marie Ayer, George Leclair, Kate Kelly, Bob Hyams, Meg Handler, Alex Weinhausen

1. Call to Order - 7:00 pm

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda - 7:05 pm

- Trail Work at Geprags
- Workshop on Saturday for Chittenden County Conversation
- Septic Social by Lake Iroquois--TBD it will take place this summer to help educate landowners surrounding the lake on the maintaining septic.
- Update by Kate on CVU--Dave T. thinks he has a Hinesburg student ready to participate in the CC.

3. Alex Weinhausen - Conservation Commission Partnership - 7:10 pm

Possibility of regional conservation partnership. South Burlington is really driving the creation of this group. Select Board wants input from CC about desire to be part of this group. It would create a standardized map to show the distribution of the conserved land in each town. Bob has attended a few meetings of the regional group already. Meetings might be quarterly and Hinesburg CC has to commit a member to attend with Alex. Mike mentioned that the goals don't mention landowners and they are only focused on working and connecting with other land conservation organizations. Meg mentioned that it is impossible to conserve land without landowners so it is implied. Alex pointed out that it is stated in the overview. CC members had a conversation about the value of this partnership and whether or not it would be worthwhile commitment from CC member to attend. Bob suggested agreeing this partnership for a year and then to re-evaluate our commitment. Marie agreed with Bob on that and Kate suggested we take turns attending. All CC members okay with a trial membership and Bob and Kate will share representation.

4. Natural Resources Inventory Mapping - 7:35 pm

Bob has a draft RFP and received some feedback from others. He feels it is ready to go and we just need to incorporate what Renae sent the board. Alex said he would review closely to add his feedback. Kate made a motion to designate Bob to send out the RFP once he finalizes the RFP Marie seconded and all were in favor. Timeline is that proposals are due June 14th. CC will meet on Tuesday, June 25 to review and invite all the interested parties.

5. VT Master Naturalist Program - 7:35 pm

Bob hadn't heard back yet from Alicia on the enrollment. CC drafted an email inquiring about the applications that they have received and the exact amount needed from the CC for support. Alicia sent back a response towards the end of the meeting outlining the need for \$1,750. Kate made a motion that we donate the \$1,750 with a stipulation that \$425 is for a scholarship for a student or teacher and they can use the rest as needed. Seconded by Mike. All voted in favor. Mike will check on Missy to get this paid by the end of the year.

6. Geprag's Park - 7:45 pm

Lenore needs confirmation on the newest trail on the spur. Bob says we need to also place a sign to let people know the trail stops here. CC needs to order signs for park informing users of expectations of dogs using. Meg is on the purchasing of signs. Mike makes a motion to allow Meg up to \$500 to spend on the signs. George seconds. All in favor. Trails End Sign. Dogs on Leash for Parking lot--2 signs, One Birds Nesting No Dogs Allowed sign.

June 1 trails clean up day in Hinesburg--Lenore is looking for volunteers. Meet behind Town Hall.

CC discussed what is the correct channels for the usage of the park and number. Should the CC have a policy of use.

7. Financial Report - 8:26 pm

Mike emailed out that a few weeks ago.

8. Forum - 8:45 pm

Mitch has sent emails about development projects in the works in town and what role does the CC want to play in these. The CC members debated this question and how to provide the needed feedback in a timely manner.

9. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2019, March 12, 2019 - 9:18 pm

Approved by all

10. Nature Notes - 9:21 pm

11. Adjourn - 9:25 pm