



## **Conservation Commission**

Town of Hinesburg  
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461  
802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

---

### **Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2019**

#### **Hinesburg Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room – 7:00 PM**

**Present:** Michael Bissonette, Robert Hyams, Meg Handler, Kate Kelly, Marie G. by phone

**Public Present:** Asha Hickok came around 8:30 PM

#### **1. Call to Order**

Michael B. called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

#### **2. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

Bob Hyams requested to add Lenore Budd's email request re: trail easement into Geprag's via Travia's to the agenda. The Commission discussed bike trails. We will investigate the proposed trail location this Friday and get back to Lenore.

#### **3. Natural Resources Inventory Mapping**

Bob H. spoke with Jesse Mohr (Native Geographic) expects to have something to us by Friday. Aaron Worthley (Arrowwood) sent an email response to Bob. Jesse M. may need to adjust the timeline for the desktop work to occur over the winter. Michael B. asked if the bids are unsatisfactory, should we reissue. Bob H. said this could be decided at the next meeting for reviewing proposals (June 25). He mentioned that he thought Jesse Mohr would complete by the end of the fiscal year; Michael B. thought that it wouldn't need to be complete by the end of the fiscal year, that money would roll over to next fiscal year.

#### **4. VT Master Naturalist Program**

The Commission discussed emails about VMN; Meg H. has signed up.

#### **5. Geprag's Park-Signs**

Meg H. reported no progress. Bob H. suggested making no dogs in NW Passage seasonal (during ground-nesting bird season).

#### **6. Forum**

- Kate Kelly announced that she spoke with a high school student (rising senior) who is interested.
- Mark LaBarr is doing work with nanotags on winged warblers at Geprag's and throughout Hinesburg.

- Septic Social will be held at Lake Iroquois on July 27 3-5 PM. Meg will post on Facebook, etc.
- Barbara Forauer is collecting bags for Winooski; contact her to deliver bags.
- Bob H. **made a motion that we approve the new Trails Committee's addition to the Geprag's trail network.** Meg H. **seconded the motion.** The Commission **voted 5-0** to approve the motion.
- The Commission discussed Hinesburg Center II - Bob H. suggested restoring the river corridor while in the process of developing. This would entail removing the berms, let the river meander, plantings. The Commission discussed how best to get involved with the development review and planning process. Mike B. asked for ideas to send to PC:
- Curbs: sloping vs. straight
- Lawn replacement with pollinator/bird friendly: don't plant fescue, plant native wildflower mix or shrubs that produce berries
- Green stormwater infrastructure: infiltration vs. channelization of water
- Narrow roads/visual cues, planters, make more bikeable/walkable
- Not disturbing hedgerow for wildlife corridors – incorporate natural corridors into design
- Best ways to minimize floodplain impacts – request an engineer to give recommendations. Address river corridor in this development.
- Asha Hickok entered the meeting during this discussion, and asked about why we wanted a high school student on the Commission. Michael B. thought having the perspective and contribution from a younger person and student is very helpful. Bob H. mentioned projects we do at CVU and the link there. Meg H. felt the energy young people bring to envision the future is important. Asha H. said she'd be willing to help bridge the gap between CVU (EnACT) and HCC.

## **7. Nature Notes**

- 8.** Michael B. has seen many cardinals. Meg H. story about large lizards in Iraq. Bob H. reported on survey on Lewis Creek; slough of farm field with moving grass and splashing sounds, and it was carp spawning. Kate K. shared a video of a Black Ratsnake on a tree. Asha H. saw a fox.

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.