



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802.482.2281 | hinesburg.org

Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom:

1. Call to order (7:04pm) – Present at the meeting: Kate Kelly, Liz Doran, Bob Hyams, Darcie Mumley, Meg Handler and Barbara Forauer
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda – VT Gas fund that was originally supposed to be invested in a separate fund. Bob will investigate that issue, in his capacity as treasurer.
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items – no public present at the meeting
4. Wakeboats – We discussed the format for how to discuss this topic at the next meeting.
5. Natural Resource Inventory – The CC is currently in the process of reviewing contracts for the next modules – CC discussed the upcoming contracts. Once the CC approves, these contracts will get sent on to the Town Manager. For spring amphibian road crossings, Kate will take the lead and coordinate volunteers to do this segment. The proposal is a little over current budget, but not by much. Jesse built in a lot of time for site visits in the forest module, but he may not get landowner permission for some of it, and he may not need as much time for visits as forecast, so that amount might turn out to be lower. Should we investigate reptile crossings as well? Solutions are very expensive, so there might not be a lot that can be done to fix identified problems. But perhaps transportation fixes might be found (e.g. larger culverts). Motion to accept Native Geographic's Hinesburg Forest Block site visits and Hinesburg Wildlife Road Crossings (Phase 2 NRI proposals). Motion made by Liz. Seconded by Darcie. Motion unanimously approved.
6. Budget discussion – Lewis Creek Association and Lake Iroquois Association will no longer appear in the Conservation Commission budget. 1. Bob proposes that we purchase specialized shovels for removing poison parsnip, and a new lock for the shed so they can be stored there. We can use them to dig out poison parsnip in the location of the pollinator garden. Motion to designate Darcie to purchase two parsnip predator shovels and a lock for the shed, if necessary. Motion made by Kate. Seconded by Liz. Motion unanimously approved. Bob will check with Bill Marks to see if he has a key to the lock. 2. Discussion about bumping up amount for mowing to \$3,200. Meg will talk with Bob Wahl. 3. Discussion about increasing the NRI budget amount because the proposed amount has

increased for Phase 2. It makes sense to increase the budget to allow room for the overage that Jesse mentioned. Motion to increase the NRI amount to \$6,500. Motion made by Kate. Seconded by Darcie. Motion passed unanimously. 4. We discussed advocating for more money to go into the Land Preservation Fund. Motion to request that \$15,000 be allocated to the Land Preservation Fund. Motion made by Meg. Seconded by Kate. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Geprags Park – review emailed request from VGS. Kate forwarded the email from VGS to Bill Marks for his comment. Bill recommended that we not make changes without advice from Jim Dumont, the lawyer who litigated this controversy. Bill forwarded the email to Jim Dumont. The CC should wait to hear from the lawyers before making any concessions to VGS. Perhaps the Town lawyer should also weigh in on this. Table the discussion until we discuss with the relevant attorneys.
8. Review minutes of September 14, 2021 – minutes approved with Meg abstaining.
9. Nature Notes
10. Adjourn