



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order 7:05. Commissioners In attendance: Darcie, Kate, Bob, Liz (arrived during wake boat discussion)

Public in attendance: Barbara Forauer, Anne Stowman, Rodney Putnam, Matt Geeslin, Jamie Carroll, Nina Friscia, Adam

There were no Additions/Deletions to agenda, there was no Public Comment for non-agenda items

1. Natural Resources Inventory update

Kate met with Jesse to discuss public involvement with phase 2, on the ground updates. Jesse feels that public participation is not feasible for winter tracking, but could work for vernal pools. Jesse is also planning forest block updates and wildlife road crossings. Bob suggested that we review Jesse's monitoring parameters for the forest blocks to ensure that they best meet our interests.

2. DRB updates; Lemay, Farrell, Laster updates

Lemay (Texas Hill): request approved by DRB. Request was to move building envelope and reduce building envelope request to 1 or 2 houses and detached garage. Farrell is looking to change approved building envelope, move would create much longer driveway and impact core forest (off of Texas Hill). Also, anticipating significant tree clearing to create view. Barbara F. shared her comment to DRB, which largely appear in-line with HCC comments. Darcie is reaching out to Trails Committee to compare notes and share concerns with proposed trails associated with Laster Development.

3. Water quality partnership plan

7:45 PM

Kate presented Lewis Creek Association (LCA) outreach plan, and invited questions, comments, and recommendations.

4. Wake boats

Meg Handler is working with a group that is petitioning the state to enact regulations on use of wake boats in inland lakes. Pronounced erosion of shoreline, churning of bottom sediments that increase turbidity and mobilize phosphorus, exchange of ballast water (and water-borne organisms) between lakes are the main concerns. Commissioners are generally in agreement with the tenor of the concerns, but would need to see language of petition before supporting. Wake boats are in fact present on Lake Iroquois. Matt Geeslin questioned whether ballast water is any different from live wells, and posed questions about the dynamics of lake depth and sediment

release. Anne Stowman expressed her concerns with the entire review process. A spirited, respectful discussion ensued, most of the public in attendance are residents of Lake Iroquois and expressed concerns about the prospects of regulating wake boats. The CC will likely discuss again at next meeting.

5. Education budget

What do we do with our education budget money??? Game cameras, of course! (Or maybe not) To be discussed again at next meeting.

6. Geprags meeting update

Regarding VGS desire to cut a path for pipeline monitoring - Bob will write a letter stating HCC position.

7. Review minutes of August 10, 2021

Darcie motioned to approve, Kate seconded, minutes approved unanimously

8. Meeting adjourned 8:45