



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom:

1. Call to order: Kate Kelly, Bob Hyams, Meg Handler, Darcy Mumley and Liz Doran present at the meeting along with members of the Public. John Widness (Jack) present as a representative of the group: Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes 7:00 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: none
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: none
4. Wakeboats – presentation and discussion;
see materials at <https://bit.ly/wakeboats> -- Jack Widness, speaker. Jack presented an introduction to wake boats, the sports of wake boarding and wake surfing and the group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. Jack spoke about the problems associated with wake boats and the justifications for managing them moving forward. Jack requested that the Hinesburg CC write a letter of support for the petition. After a short presentation, there was time for discussion, questions etc. Jack explained the process for submitting a petition. Questions and comments from members and the public. Discussion by the various Conservation Commission members. Bob suggested that the Conservation Commission request that ANR look into this issue, but not support particular requirements for depth or distance from the shore. Darcie agreed. Liz agreed and referred to the FOVLAP statement which she categorized as very strongly in support of wakeboat management in general. Kate agreed and emphasized that ANR would be responsible for the specifics of regulation. Pat Suozzi spoke on behalf of FOVLAP, explaining that FOVLAP does not support this specific petition but does support wake boat management. Pat referred the CC to the formal statement issued by FOVLAP in support of State management of wake boats. Pat reiterated that ANR should and will take responsibility for the specifics of how this management happens. Darcie made a motion to write a letter of support for the petition in its request to manage wakeboats with the details to be finalized by ANR. Seconded by Bob. Further discussion about who to send the letter to. Meg asked the group whether they felt she ought to vote or not, since she is active in the group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes. Not a clear answer on that. Darcie rescinded her motion. Darcie made a new motion to write a letter to ANR to support management of wake boats on Vermont lakes and the CC

will consider supporting the petition once they have a final draft. Bob seconded. Meg chose to abstain. The other four voted yes.

5. Geprags Park – discuss emailed request from VGS, mowing – Kate went for a walk in the park with VGS and they did the mowing exactly as they were instructed to do. Question from VGS about whether we need annual reports. Kate consulted with Bill Marks who agreed that the CC could make general recommendations for how things should happen. We will take this up in the future. Liz made a motion to make Meg the Mowing Goddess. Bob seconded it. Passed unanimously.

6. Annual report – Meg will do the annual report. Due December 10th.

7. DRB updates & discuss protocol –

Laster changed it from three phases to four phases, with the fourth being the area that we are most concerned about. Phase One is for 8 houses, closest to Mechanicsville Road, in an already-cleared field. Current houses are concerned about headlights, so they might want to move the road over to what is possibly a wetland. If the CC wants to comment, we should focus on Phase One at this point. Sketch plan has been approved with conditions. Darcie will look into what comes next.

Farrell application was denied by the DRB. They are still pursuing it at the next meeting.

RR1 Regulations – Planning Commission is still discussing it.

Discussion about use of our form for weighing in to the DRB on potential developments. Mitch can be the trigger for making that happen by asking the CC to fill out the form. Or all of us could look at the weekly updates and let Liz know if something looks worthy of consideration. Liz volunteered to continue to be the contact person to fill out the initial form. Other members can then take responsibility for individual projects going forward. Kate suggested that we all stay on top of new applications and we can revisit this along the way.

8. Education budget update – Darcie purchased two Parsnip Predators and is awaiting their arrival.
9. Review minutes of October 12, 2021 – Liz made motion to approve. Kate seconded. Approved unanimously

10. Nature Notes

11. Adjourn

9:20 PM

