



## **Conservation Commission**

Town of Hinesburg

10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461

802.482.2281 | [hinesburg.org](http://hinesburg.org)

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### **Hinesburg Conservation Commission Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

1. Call to order – Meg, Kate, Bill, Summer, and Member of the Public (Morgan Decker) 7:00pm
2. Nature Notes
3. Additions/Deletions to agenda – Bill suggested coming up with work plans for this coming year. Meg presented an update on wake boats.
4. Public Comment for non-agenda items -- none
5. Land preservation fund – Kate presented a summary of the Selectboard meeting. Discussion and decision to hold off on advocating further for this year and to plan for next year instead. Morgan contributed various thoughts. Discussion of 30-by-30 initiative as it relates to land conservation. Task or work plan list will be developed and brought back to the group at a later meeting. Kate, Bill, and Meg will work on this plan.
6. Updates
  - a. Development review – Windy Ridge closed. Allowed access from two sides by road (not connected). 75-foot stream buffer was preserved. 50-foot wetland buffer (larger one) does encroach on some lots requiring language in the deeds. Smaller wetland has no buffer. No language of explanation. Bob brought up that the DRB only interprets the rules, many of which don't seem to live up to our standards. Perhaps the Conservation Commission should propose new rules.
  - b. Geprags management – bird habitat management, VELCO management – Kate and Tobi spoke with Mark LeBarr and Katie Kain; Kate also reached out to someone at VELCO who she never reached. Bird management work is all on hold, waiting to make sure the ground is frozen. Probably easiest to concentrate our bird habitat energy on the hillside and away from the wetter areas.
  - c. Education subcommittee – iNaturalist, beavers, water quality presentation – no updates.
  - d. Watershed grant (beaver mitigation) – Bob will make sure we are getting an extension.

7. Check-in re: CC activities & direction – Mission statement should be on work plan. Town plan. River corridor regulations. We should talk about priorities and time available.
8. Adjourn 8:20 PM