



Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom:

1. Call to order (7:00pm): Kate Kelly, Meg Handler, Tobi Schulman, Darci Mumley, Liz Doran, Bob Hyams, Kathy Beyer.
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: None
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: None
4. Town Forest Committee request for letter of support: Jon Trefry present to outline the project and the request and to answer questions – Town Forest is applying for a grant to replace a culvert near the trailhead for the Eagle Trail and to do trail work to get water off the trail. Meg made a motion to write a letter of support. Darcie seconded. Unanimous vote in favor of writing the letter of support. Darcie will draft the letter of support to ANR, Forest, Parks & Recreation.
5. Geprags: 1) Bluebird houses – these should be cleaned out once a year; should we try to find someone to do this task? Bob offered to do it this Sunday if there are no eggs. Bob will check the boxes to see what's going on. 2) Beavers – Bob has had phone conversations with the Beaver Deceiver guy but nothing in writing yet. Bob went down there to look at what's going on. Beavers have expanded the new pond and a good part of the field is now inundated. There is nothing blocking the underpass. There is a dam downstream. Bob thinks it is not inevitable that the beavers will threaten the underpass. He thinks it is not too pressing a need to address that right now. The beavers are taking down some large poplar trees. The footbridge is now partially submerged. But we should be able to make a bridge there. 3) Other park news – the construction mats have been removed; discussion of various other ideas for the park. Proposed next meeting: June 14th at Geprags.
6. NRI: follow up phone calls: Tobi sent out letters for Jesse Mohr to do site visits. Went out to six landowners. One responded granting permission. Five more have not responded. We should do phone calls to follow up. Meg, Kate and Tobi will follow up with phone calls.
7. Patrick Brook corridor conservation: There are several pieces of land along the corridor that could be managed for conservation. Bob discussed details of the project. Developer at

Hinesburg Center Phase II has expressed interest in giving up the land along Patrick Brook. Developer at Haystack also willing to give up land along the brook. What would be the next step? Money would be needed from DEC to create the easement and go into a stewardship fund. Meg will talk with the Hinesburg Land Trust about this project and see whether there might be interest in holding the easement for the project. Bob will call DEC (Gretchen Alexander).

8. Development review: How can we streamline the process? Do we want to provide review for all the upcoming projects? How would we determine which ones require review? What is in the zoning ordinance? Discussion. Decision to add one development to our next agenda for review.
9. Review minutes of April 12, 2022: Darcie made motion to accept. Kate seconded. Unanimously approved.

10. Nature Notes

11. Adjourn

8:45 PM