



## Conservation Commission

Town of Hinesburg

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### Hinesburg Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

1. Call to order: Kate, Bob, Meg, Tobi, Darcie 7:05 PM
2. Additions/Deletions to agenda: In-person meetings start up again in February. We need to have at least one person at Town Hall for every meeting. We will start with a hybrid format with one person planning to be there and anyone else who wants to be there will go too. Kate will start as the first person at Town Hall.
3. Public Comment for non-agenda items: No public present
4. Geprags management – bird habitat management, parsnip planning: Bird habitat: We have money to pay someone. Mark LaBarr suggested we hire someone to do some management for us. Brian Washburn is the contractor. We would probably just set aside a certain amount and have him do as much as possible with that amount. Mark was going to look into finding funding for management. We should get on his schedule as soon as possible. Tobi will contact Mark LaBarr to ask him to initiate management this year. Parsnip planning: we don't know yet if we have the funding. We should find out in March. Tobi came up with a draft plan – mow a bit before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mow a second time when the plants start to bloom. This runs counter to the ground-nesting bird schedule. But mowing later won't work unless we mow early. We should follow that schedule for 3 years in order to reduce the amount of poison parsnip. We would want to do the entire field (or a discreet unit) so as not to continue to spread seed. We would want to time it so that none of the seed is viable. Plants don't all mature at the same time, so any mowing strategy would be difficult and we would need to do qualitative monitoring. Maybe we should follow the ground-nesting bird timetable and mow three times. We will never be able to get the Parsnip all at the same time. Tobi will see if she can find answers to all that. Perhaps we can monitor an area of Parsnip (ideally near the Pollinator Gardens) so that we can assess management strategies. We should pick one discreet unit and focus on that. We can use the Parsnip Predators for that as well. Bobolinks tend to use fields that are 10-acres or more (according to VT Center for Ecostudies) so some of our potential units are not necessarily conducive to bobolinks anyway. Tobi will put together more of a plan for next time.

5. Educational content on town website, education subcommittee: Tobi sent around a sheet. Everyone should read it and forward edits to Tobi. She will put it up on the website. Maybe we should have an education sub-committee to talk about education ideas and then bring them back to the group. This might help to move things forward in between meetings. Tobi and Meg will work on this.
6. Road/driveway standards: Kate reports that Charlotte has not made a lot of progress on this. Alex told Kate that there are draft road standards in place but nothing has been done with them. The CC should weigh in on that draft. We could prompt them on that. Meg will email Alex and request the most recent copy of the draft.
7. Request re: Vermont Invasive (Management) Day: Missy Ross sent draft proposal of a request for a Vermont Invasive Management Day. Weekend after Green Up Day. We probably need more information about it before we decide to weigh in on it. Kate will reach out to get more information.
8. Strategic planning: It's January – time to think about what we want to do this year. The CC did a lot of strategic planning in the past (facilitated by Jens Hilke). Maybe the newer members might want to look at that plan and weigh in. We also might want to look through the list and pick a few priority items for 2023. Kate has a copy of the document.
9. Development review updates: Hinesburg Town Center DRB meeting – Kyle Medash spoke at the meeting and explained that the developer has not yet proven “no undue adverse impact.” Developer has still not applied for the Act 250 Permit. No decision has been made. Issue of conserving the back portion of the lot -- Western portion is on the other side of the bridge. No feedback on whether that might be conserved or not. Next DRB meeting: Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>.
10. Watershed grant opportunity: We might consider the beaver restoration at Geprags. Worth considering whether a beaver deceiver for the culvert might get funded. Bob will look into it. Tobi made a motion to delegate Bob for the creation of a committee and the writing of a grant related to the beaver deceiver project. Meg seconded. Unanimous approval.
11. Review minutes of November 8: Approved.
12. Nature Notes
13. Adjourn

8:53 PM