

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 8 JANUARY 2015
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ken Johnson (KJ), Chair; Pete Diminico (PD) Vice-Chair; Katie Reilly (KR), Clerk; David Henderson (DH); David Rosen (DR); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD); Rick Taylor (RT).

ALSO ATTENDING: Matt Witten, Coordinator Addison County River Watch Collaborative; Gary Unger, Bristol resident.

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

- II. Public comment period.
Matt Witten, representing the River Watch Collaborative, briefly discussed the interest of his group in reaching out to local residents to establish “Water Quality Chats”. These are public meetings offered to local residents to elicit concerns, comments and action in improving water quality within our town. These discussions would engage surrounding communities to create a collaborative focused on improving water quality in the region. Public participation is key.
Matt requested an opportunity to meet with the Conservation Commission and the public. At that time he would make a presentation to engage the commission, and the public, in strategies for improving water quality.
The Commission endorsed the concept and agreed to put this public presentation on the agenda for February. Pete and Matt will handle the publicity for the event (Front Porch Forum, BCC website).

- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
Dave Rosen requested two items to be added to the agenda: Bristol Historical Society request for BCC collaboration, and Green Up Day planning.
Regarding the Bristol Historical Society, Dave related that Steve Ayotte of the Historical Society was interested in getting a copy of the Tree Inventory report, and in getting a BCC representative to meet with them for a discussion of mutual interests. Ken and Dave will work out a date for meeting with them.
Kristen also suggested collaborating with the Historical Society and getting funding for a trail/historical site at the location of the historical manufacturing site by the South Street Bridge. Although there is limited area for a trail, there might be opportunities to create an historic site, showing the history of South Street area, perhaps with a kiosk that has photographs, maps, etc. Such collaborative efforts often have additional funding opportunities.
Regarding Green Up Day, Dave wanted the Commission to know that he will not be in the area during April 2015, and is requesting that another BCC commissioner take on his early activities. This would include picking up bags and posters at Middlebury Recycling, and distributing posters around town. Katie will put it on the March agenda.

- IV. Approval of minutes of 13 November 2014.
DR moved that the minutes of 13 November 2014 be approved; RT seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence.
Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions sent a “Seedling” newsletter with their annual membership application. Ken will talk with Therese about sending in our membership fee.
- VI. Old Business
- A. Farmland Conservation: Farr/Fuller properties on North 116 Bristol; update.
The Roleaus continue to improve the property and build their house. The BCC responsibility for the project is basically ended. Katie will take the item off the agenda.
- B. Vermont Geological Survey bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mountain Quadrangles; update; discussion of water quality reports and derivative maps.
Marjorie Gale of VGS has sent the most recent Memorandum of Understanding. This indicates that the \$4500 payment is not required from the town until February 2015, or until Jon Kim has provided maps to the town, which is anticipated by February 15, 2015. Pete will follow up on this.
- C. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program.
Randy recently received the draft Town of Bristol Urban Tree Inventory. Some revisions are yet to be made: once finalized the town will receive about 10 hard copies of the report.
- D. Vermont Institute of Natural Science Raptor Encounter: held October 3 at Holley Hall; discussion of attendance, etc.
As previously discussed the event was very successful. Katie will remove the item from the agenda.
- E. Conservation Reserve Fund: closure on the Watershed Wildlands Project at the Watershed Center; other CRF items. Approximately \$6000 was donated from the Conservation Reserve Fund.
- F. Conservation Commission membership; on-going discussion. Gary Unger was present to observe the Conservation Commission. Pete told Gary if he was interested in joining the commission to contact the Selectboard. We need one more commissioner to make a full commission, and would be glad to have him.
- G. Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee: discussion about November meeting.
Several Commissioners attended the meeting with the Monkton ANAC. The focus of the group is protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat. ANAC was apparently formed and funded before the creation of the Monkton Conservation Commission, and so has an overlapping interest. BCC members are welcome to continue to meet with them.
- VII. New Business
- A. Bristol Conservation Commission 2014 Annual Report: review.
The Annual Report for 2014 has been finalized, with only a minor edit to be made by Ken regarding Conservation Reserve Fund acknowledgements. Ken will send to Katie who will distribute the report.

VIII. Other

Pete related his interest in the Water Causcuses meetings sponsored by the Vermont Natural Resource Council (VNRC), as very informative, interesting meetings that engage people to do more about water quality. They are particularly focused on participating in legislative actions.

The next meeting is at 3 p.m. on Thursday January 15th at the library in Montpelier, 135 Main St.

Pete also recommended that the Commission continue to look for and pursue opportunities to improve water quality, and to involve the public in environmental issues. He would like the commission to develop mini-grant programs using money from the CRF to fund small projects such as individual rain gardens to reduce erosion problems. Pete also suggested posting some derivative geologic maps at Town Meeting Day, and also possibly at the National Bank of Middlebury.

IX. Next Meeting Schedule and Agenda

A. Next meeting: 12 February 2015.

X. Upcoming events

15 January 2015: VNRC Water Causcus in Montpelier at the Kellog-Hubbard Library 135 Main St. Montpelier;

XI. Adjournment

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; KJ seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.