

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2015
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Devlin Rutherford, resident

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
Mr. Rutherford was present to discuss his qualifications for, and his interest in, becoming a Conservation Commissioner in Bristol.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 12 March 2015.
DH moved that the minutes of 12 March 2015 be approved; KU seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence
E-mails related to items listed below.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Discussion with Claire Tebbs of Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) regarding stormwater issues.
Claire Tebbs presented a slide program and discussion on “Green Stormwater Infrastructure” (GSI). This is an approach to stormwater management which incorporates techniques to improve runoff quality and reduce quantity. The basic GSI concept is to change the traditional approach to stormwater management, with its hard ditches, culverts and pipes, to a low impact development (LID) style which uses vegetation and other green permeable surfaces to hold back stormwater and treat runoff. This LID design approach:
 - Increases the infiltration of stormwater into the surrounding soils;
 - Reduces the quantity of stormwater flows;
 - Reduces the speed of runoff, thereby reducing erosion;
 - Reduces the overall volume of runoff; and,
 - Increases the quality of the stormwater.

The ACRPC is currently working with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to analyze areas of erosion and degraded stormwater quality, and

map high priority areas in Bristol Village that would benefit from the implementation of GSI techniques. Once these areas are identified the Town can apply for grant funding pinpointing specific locations for in-depth analyses. Once specific locations are targeted, the Town can apply for additional funding for the actual construction of these GSI improvements.

As we proceed Ms. Tebbs is available to assist the Town in preparation of grant applications and other guidance in improving our compliance with our Village area. We also hope to make Conservation Reserve Fund monies available to facilitate the participation by residents in the construction of rain gardens (basins with vegetation that slow runoff and allow detention.)

B. New Haven River Resilience Project: Application to High Meadows Fund Resilience Committee.

Kristen described the on-going process to assist the Vermont River Conservancy and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission in developing an application to the High Meadows Fund for \$60,000 to improve flood resiliency within the three New Haven River towns (Bristol, New Haven and Lincoln). Kristen, Steve Libby and Tim Bouton had attended the Selectboard meeting on 30 March 2015 to gain the support of the Town of Bristol. Kristen presented the project summary to the Selectboard, who approved the participation of the Town of Bristol, provided there was no funding required from the town. Kristen will get the required signatures and forward the endorsement.

C. Vermont Geological Survey (VGS) bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mountain Quadrangles; update; discussion of water quality reports and derivative maps.

Kristen explained that \$3000 of the total \$6000 has been paid to the VGS. Once the maps have been delivered to the Town, the remainder will be paid.

D. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; Tree Inventory update.

Randy described his attendance at the Vermont Stewardship Of The Urban Landscape (SOUL) classes, which are educational classes set up to assist residents who might be considered as stewards for the urban tree population. He also explained the grants available for tree care and restoration, and encouraged the Commission to consider applying for grant money next year. He also encouraged the Commission to consider endorsing a more active role as stewards of our urban tree population. This might include a more active role for the Town of Bristol Tree Warden.

E. Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF): on-going discussion

Pete brought the topic of developing a policy for the use of CRF monies, which the Commission has discussed in the past. Water quality signage listing most recent E. coli readings at the New Haven River popular areas was discussed. Pete will put together a sign for Bartlett Falls.

F. Conservation Commission membership: on-going discussion.

Devlin expressed his interest in the work the Commission was engaged in, and will pursue an appointment.

VII. New Business

- A. Green Up Day: Saturday, May 2nd, 45th anniversary; coordination.
Dave Rosen is away for the month of April, but he will be available to work at the Town Green on Green-Up Day. In the meantime Randy Durand will coordinate with the Middlebury Solid Waster person to get the garbage bags, posters, etc.

VIII. Other

- A. Randy brought up the sandhill crane population at Bristol Pond. He hopes that the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department staff would offer more protection for the cranes' nesting area.

IX. Events

- A. May 2nd, Green-Up Day. (See above)
- B. May 21st, Bristol Historical Society meeting: starts at 7:00 p.m., with Historical Trail discussion at 8:00 p.m. at Howden Hall.

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 14 May 2015.

Katie will add Eagle Park maintenance on the May agenda.

XI. Adjournment

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; PD seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.