

TOWN of BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
HELD AT HOLLEY HALL
AT 6:00 PM ON

THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 2015

In Attendance: Pete Diminico (Co-Chair) (PD), Dave Henderson (DH), Devlin Rutherford (DvR), Randy Durant (RD), Kristen Underwood (KU)

Public In Attendance: Sonia DeYoung, UVM student

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by PD at 6:12 PM
- II. Public comment period. See item VI.A.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda. None added.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 9 July 2015. RD identified some clarification edits to the draft minutes. DH moved to accept the minutes as amended. DvR seconded the motion. All approved.
- V. Correspondence; emails related to items listed below. See item VI.B.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. New Haven River project proposed by Sonia DeYoung, focusing on the New Haven River Watershed, to be funded by Vermont River Conservancy; updates.

Sonia DeYoung reported on her recent river walk along the New Haven River during the last week of July. The walk went well, and she encountered and had discussions with approximately 40 people. Coincidentally, an isolated T-storm caused minor flooding on the upper New Haven River in Lincoln while she was there. Flooding impacted a bridge replacement project causing a generator to be washed downstream and loss of a workers footpath that had been constructed along the bridge span. In the few days before Sonia left to start the river walk, she learned that any formal interview or survey of human subjects required prior approval of her study design by a UVM committee. She therefore modified her approach to include informal conversations with those members of the public encountered during the walk. She is developing a formal survey (being reviewed by UVM) which she hopes to distribute via announcements on Front Porch Forum. The survey will consist of a combination of multiple choice and write-in responses to poll residents about their attitudes re: the river. She hopes to have approval to distribute the survey by early September, so that results can be used by her project sponsor, Vermont River Conservancy, as they prepare with Addison County Regional Planning Commission to submit a Flood Resilience and Education grant application to the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The survey design will be shared with the CC at a future date. She has been interviewed by the Addison Independent about her recent river walk, and the article will appear in an upcoming edition.

- B. Stormwater Infrastructure: stenciling project with Stever Bartlett of the New Haven River Anglers; updates. Email correspondence from recent days confirms that the Selectboard voted 10 August 2015 to unanimously endorse the project. Stever Bartlett has communicated with Road Commissioner, Peter Bouvier. The stencil design has been selected and ordered. The NHRAA has purchased the paint and other materials. Stever will coordinate with the CC re: dates/times to survey the drain locations with Peter, and to carry out the stenciling.
- C. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Ongoing discussion regarding stormwater management. Past meeting minutes have identified a possible green infrastructure project in the village being proposed by East Street resident Richard Butz in consultation with Peter Bouvier. No new news re: project design or details. PD will follow up with Mr. Butz to get current status of the project.
- D. Vermont Geological Survey bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mount quadrangles: update. PD will communicate with Therese Kirby to determine if final payments were made to VGS including \$1,500 from the Planning Commission operating budget and the remainder from the Bristol Conservation Reserve Fund.
- E. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program: updates. RD reported that he has been communicating with ACRPC to confirm that Claire Tebbs on their staff will be completing a management plan for Bristol Village trees recently inventoried by the VUCF program. Claire Tebbs is on vacation, so project status will be updated at the next CC meeting.
- F. Saunders River Access: maintenance of plantings. DH reported that he visited the site earlier in the day, and many of the buffer plantings appear not to have survived. KU reported that she has been in communication with Stever Bartlett to organize a community work day at the site to transplant native saplings from adjacent river bars and elsewhere on the town property – including basswood, sycamore and poplar. These species appear to be thriving. NHRAA has offered to co-host the event with Bristol CC and bring snacks and drinks. A date of October 10 has been tentatively identified. KU will coordinate the Bristol CC involvement and work with Stever to publicize the event through FPF and other venues. PD and DH raised interest in doing a formal inventory of surviving tree saplings after the first hard frost (so that saplings stand out more noticeably against the backdrop of meadow grasses).
- G. Bristol Historical Society: coordination on New Haven River historical kiosk. KU is scheduled to report back to BHS at their August meeting with a proposed design, costs and funding plan. KU will ask BHS for a time extension to a fall meeting.
- H. Sycamore Park: ongoing discussion about erosion of the river banks. PD reported that rock has been delivered to Sycamore Park. KU reported that an excavator has been staged in the parking area in the last day or two. PD reported that Vtrans staff told him that they would also be planting trees along the streambank once rip-rap has been installed.

- I. Eagle Park: maintenance work. Ken Johnson, DH and KU spread several yards of mulch donated by A. Johnson Lumber Co. on the perennial garden on Sat 18 July. Several CC members have been periodically weeding and weed-wacking in recent weeks. In coming days, PD will bring his generator and sand the picnic table. DvR will help with sanding. RD has recently contacted Kevin Behm at ACRPC to ask for his (free) services to prepare a location map that could be installed at the kiosk. A location map would aid tourists and other visitors to the park, who commonly stop in looking for the location of Bartlett's Falls. Additional kiosk materials could include a history of Eagle Park and how it came to be. These new materials could replace the old and faded map of the six regional rivers monitored by Addison County River Watch Collaborative.

VII. New Business

VIII. Other

IX. Events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 10 September 2015

XI. Adjournment

DH made a motion to adjourn the meeting. PD seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 19:27.

Minutes respectfully submitted, 17 August 2015, by Kristen Underwood