

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**APPROVED MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**  
**HELD AT HOLLEY HALL**  
**AT 6:00 P.M. ON**  
**THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2015**

Attending: Ken Johnson (KJ, Chair), Pete Diminico (PD, Vice-Chair), Randy Durant (RD),  
Devlin Rutherford (DR), Richard Taylor (RT), Kristen Underwood (KU)

Public Attending: Richard Butz

I. Call to order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.

II. Public comment period; additions to agenda.

See Item VI.A.

III. Addition of items to the agenda.

See Item VII.C.

IV. Approval of minutes of 14 May 2015.

Draft minutes approved. Motion by RT. Seconded by KJ.

V. Correspondence.

E-mails related to items listed below.

Recent emails were received from Stever Bartlett of New Haven River Anglers Assoc by Pete Diminico and forwarded to the CC members re: a proposal to stencil relevant storm drains in the village of Bristol with a notice that they drain to the New Haven River. See item VI.A.

VI. Old Business

A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: On-going discussion regarding stormwater management; discussion with Richard and Gail Butz.

Bristol resident Richard Butz attended the meeting to generate discussion of stormwater runoff and projects that could be implemented in the village to manage volumes of stormwater and address water quality. Richard mentioned a documentary entitled "What's Your Watermark" which has recently aired on Vermont PBS. The video features St Albans as a community that has implemented many green infrastructure projects. Richard recently visited these project sites in St Albans and showed the CC a few pictures of green infrastructure projects including pervious pavement and stormwater infiltration arrays. Richard asked if the Bristol CC would be interested in sponsoring similar green infrastructure projects in Bristol. He is aware of several trouble areas in Bristol where stormwater accumulates despite recently-improved stormwater infrastructure. Trouble areas discussed include ponding of water at the Mountain Street / East Street

intersection; back yards of homes along East Street, and areas along Mountain Street and Fitch Avenue. PD identified a recent publication by VT Dept of Environmental Conservation, which includes a mapping of stormwater infrastructure in the Bristol village including contributing watersheds, and identifies possible retrofit projects to infiltrate stormwater. PD expressed concern regarding direct discharge of stormwater to the New Haven River – runoff which can include fecal contaminants, nutrients, oils, greases, sediment and heavy metals and which can result in thermal impacts. The CC discussed the possibility of a demonstration project, such as a rain garden. Possible funding sources could include the Conservation Reserve Fund and/or a grant from the Ecosystem Restoration Program (VTANR, fall application).

KU expressed general support for green infrastructure approaches but raised concerns re: cost, durability of pervious pavements in cold climates. There may be more cost effective means to detain and infiltrate stormwater other than pervious pavement, such as narrower sidewalks, more vegetation strips, rain gardens, and rain barrels. Richard Butz acknowledged that green infrastructure projects recently completed in St Albans were paid for (at least in large part) by Walmart.

Richard Butz noted that in a past role as a member of the Buffalo Area River Keepers his group sold rain barrels as a fundraiser, and they were quite popular. The group discussed that sale of rain barrels could be an important way to spread the word re: stormwater management and water conservation. Possibly, the Bristol Conservation Reserve Fund could be used to help subsidize the cost of rain barrels for Bristol homeowners (pending Selectboard approval). RT noted perhaps the Mountain Street area and other areas of the village with a propensity for flooding could be the first focus of outreach and a rain barrel program. KU and PD will research a possible rain barrel program (sourcing, price, availability) to report at the next meeting.

PD noted a related project recently proposed by Stever Bartlett of the New Haven River Anglers Association (NHRAA) re: a proposal to stencil relevant storm drains in the village of Bristol with a notice that they drain to the New Haven River. Labor and materials would be offered by NHRAA members. PD will ask Stever to attend the next CC meeting to make a formal proposal. If approved, the CC can bring the proposal to the SB.

- B. New Haven River Resilience Project: Update on The River Conservancy and the Addison County Regional Planning Commission application to High Meadows Fund Resilience Committee.

KU reported that the Vermont River Conservancy and Addison County RPC recently heard that their proposal was not funded. VRC and ACRPC were planning to meet and brainstorm about other possible funding sources for their project.

- C. Vermont Geological Survey bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mountain Quadrangles; update

PD noted that Vermont State Geologist, Marjie Gale, recently communicated with Therese Kirby that derivative maps will be completed within the month.

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

RD reported on concerns that trees in the village green have been over-mulched leading to oxygen starving and demise of the trees. He and DH coordinated with Therese Kirby to inspect trees on the village green. Following methods detailed in agricultural extension postings forwarded by a representative from Bartlett's Tree Service, they pulled mulch off one tree on the northwest corner of the village green to expose the original root flare, which took over an hour. The primary flare was at great depth – it was likely that the tree was planted too deep to begin with. Other trees on the green (approximately 30) are similarly over-mulched. Extension publications indicate that if the over-mulching is properly remedied, the trees can recover.

RD recommends that a certified arborist look at trees on the green and identify how many are compromised. RD will ask Caitlin Cusak or Elise from the Urban Community Forest program. Pending results, the group discussed that a volunteer event could be coordinated in future to correct the over-mulching. Efforts on the Town Green could serve as a demonstration for remedying over-mulched trees on private and other public lands.

- E. Conservation Reserve Fund: on-going discussion on expenditures and balance; policy/mission statement. Discussion tabled.
- F. Conservation Commission membership: on-going discussion. Discussion tabled.
- G. Eagle Park Maintenance: update.

PD and KU have recently made visits to weed the perennials at Eagle Park. Some shovel and rake work is still needed to address weeds along the gravel ramp itself. CC members will visit the park as available over the next month.

## VII. New Business

- A. Saunders River Access: maintenance of plantings.

PD reported that the aspen saplings in the buffer planting areas are doing especially well; other species have not done as well. The group acknowledged the very dry mid and late summer last year. KU reviewed the Trees for Streams grant agreement that covered plantings; there is no language that indicates replacement plantings in year 2. According to an MOA between Otter Creek NRC and Vermont River Conservancy (VRC), the VRC is responsible for maintenance of the buffer plantings. KU will talk to Steve Libby of VRC about a possible fall planting effort to fill in gaps in the buffer – possibly using re-seeded aspens and sycamore from the immediate vicinity.

- B. Bristol Historical Society: discussion about 21 May 2015 meeting and coordination on New Haven River historical kiosk.

KU and Dave Rosen had been scheduled to attend the May 21 Bristol Historical Society (BHS) meeting to speak to the BHS about collaborating on possible historical signage and/or a short

interpretive walk to commemorate the Bristol Manufacturing Company site at South Street on the New Haven River. KU reported that she unfortunately missed the May 21 meeting. DR was in attendance for a short time; however, the scheduled speaker was over-time, and Dave had to return to an ongoing Bristol Recreation Club meeting. KU and Dave Rosen are scheduled to attend the next BHS meeting, on June 18.

- C. Sycamore Park. Emmalee Cherington, I.E., Construction Engineer Pete D spoken to him. She will talk to Vtrans. No. 1 stone sloughing into river in response to 2-year storm.

PD reported that he happened to be present at Sycamore Park earlier this week when a Vtrans subcontracted construction engineer, Emmalee Cherington, was completing a post-construction evaluation of the site. PD shared with Ms Cherington his concerns over the stability of the streambank along the parking area at Sycamore – noting the erosion and streambank collapse that has occurred during the last two storms on June 1 and June 8. Ms. Cherington noted that she will review these concerns with Vtrans. PD noted that Ms Cherington has been in contact with Therese Kirby.

#### VIII. Other

KU and PD noted that water quality information has recently been posted in kiosks at Eagle Park, Sycamore Park and the Saunders River Access, as well as on a tree at Bartlett's Falls. The water quality information includes a summary of recent E. coli testing results from Addison County River Watch testing sites on the New Haven River at Bartlett's Falls, South Street, Sycamore Park, and Nash Bridge. These signs will be updated following future testing dates on the first Wednesday of the month in July, August and September. See attachment for posted information.

#### IX. Events

- A.
- B.

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 9 July 2015.

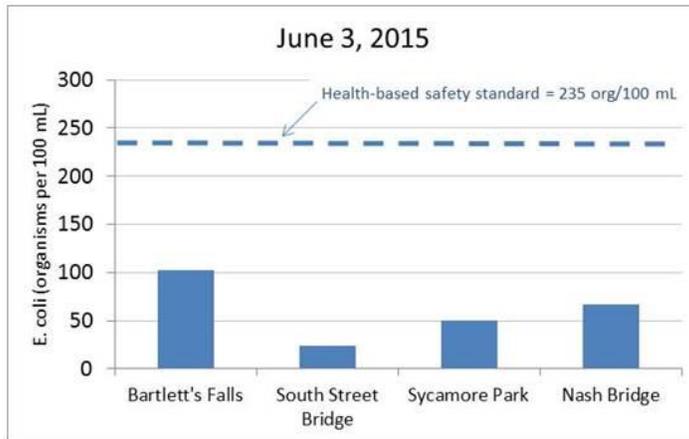
#### XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: PD; Seconded by RT; Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kristen Underwood

# *E. coli* river sampling results

## New Haven River



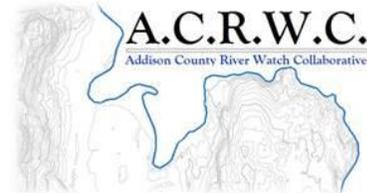
The Vermont Department of Health sets a health-based safety standard for *E. coli* of 235 organisms/100 mL.

*E. coli* concentrations below this standard are acceptable conditions for swimming.

Contact Pete Diminico  
([diminico@gmavt.net](mailto:diminico@gmavt.net)) or  
Kristen Underwood  
([southmountain@gmavt.net](mailto:southmountain@gmavt.net))  
with questions.

*E. coli* is one type of fecal coliform bacteria found in the intestines of humans and other warm-blooded animals. It is used as an indicator of potential fecal contamination of waters. While most strains of *E. coli* are themselves not pathogenic, detection of *E. coli* suggests that other disease-causing pathogens may be present.

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# *E. coli* river sampling results

## Bartlett's Falls (NHR11.5)

June 3	July 1	Aug 5	Sept 2
102			

Concentration in organisms per 100 mL

The Vermont Department of Health sets a health-based safety standard for *E. coli* of 235 organisms/100 mL. *E. coli* concentrations below this standard are acceptable conditions for swimming.

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