

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2015
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Pete Diminico (PD) Vice-Chair; Katie Reilley (KR), Clerk; David Henderson (DH); David Rosen (DR); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD Devlin Rutherford (DvR).

ALSO ATTENDING:

- I. Call to order.
Dave Henderson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
Pete Diminico assumed Chair upon arrival at 7:10 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
No public present.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
Katie noted that the minutes from Sept. 10, 2015 should be added to Item IV.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 8 October 2015 and 10 September 2015.
KU moved that the minutes of 8 October 2015 and 10 September 2015 be approved; DR seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence
No emails available at meeting.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update regarding stormwater management and the project at the corner of Main St. and Mountain St.
Ken had worked with Richard Butz to excavate the area for his stormwater retention project. All was in place except the connecting pipe and the grate that covers the chamber. Dave H. thought we should get some photos before it gets covered.
 - B. New Haven River project by Sonia DeYoung, focusing on the New Haven River Watershed, funded by Vermont River Conservancy: updates.
No new information reported.
 - C. Stormwater Infrastructure: stenciling project with Stever Bartlett of the New Haven River Anglers; update.
The overall assessment on the stenciling itself was that the paint used is wearing off rapidly, and that several catch basins in the Shaw's parking lot were overlooked. This application was basically a test for the durability of the paint; Dave Rosen thought that Stever Bartlett knew the paint would wear away, but he didn't know how long it would take to wear away.
Green-Up Day is a target date for repainting the stencils.

- D. Vermont Geological Survey bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mountain Quadrangles; update.
Pete did confirm that the Planning Commission paid what was determined as their share \$1500. VGS is paid in full at this point.
Katie will get the web link for the maps and ask Pam at the Town Hall and Bruce to put it on the Town and Conservation Commission websites.
(link: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/ofreps.htm>)
- E. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update.
Randy participated in the Tree Care program set up by Elise Schadler as part of the Bristol Tree Inventory. Our next step is to develop a plan for Bristol's urban forest. Claire Tebbs of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission will work with Rand on this. The plan sets up the management techniques and implementation steps to maintain the trees in a healthy condition and to anticipate future needs.
Randy also discussed the UCF annual program that was held at Holley Hall on October 10. He said it was well attended and had a full day of good speakers. He also suggested we should have a digital copy of the Tree Inventory available on the town websites.
- F. Saunders River Access: update on maintenance of plantings on October 10, 2015.
Kristen said the crew worked from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m., and transplanted basswood and sycamore saplings from the bars to the south bend in the river. She anticipates that we'll do more plantings on Green-Up Day or Arbor Day. She assessed the mortality of earlier plantings at about 50%. The willows have taken off through the bend.
- G Sycamore Park: completion of riparian treatment to reduce erosion of the river banks.
The slopes at the southwest side of the park by the bridge are doing well. Grass has grown in the seeded area. Overall the project was very well done. We will continue to monitor the tow of the bank in particular.
The Commission will look into revitalizing the trail system that was established years ago and has since grown in.
- G. Eagle Park: maintenance work update.
Dave Henderson thought that the access from the kiosk to the rocks was relatively flat and had enough room for a wheelchair.
The path has held up well. Pete suggested putting on more stone dust in the spring.

VII. New Business

- A. Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee: questionnaire regarding regional natural resource planning. (See attached.)
The Commission reviewed the questionnaire sent out by the Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee. Kristen typed in our responses to send out to the committee. See attached.

VIII. Other

- A. Zoning Regulations
Kristen and Pete discussed the opportunity to make recommendations for changes to the Town's Zoning Regulations regarding development in the New Haven River corridor. State agencies will be offering financial incentives to towns that have addressed controls on development in low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and streams

with flooding potential. The Conservation Commission has discussed possible changes to zoning regulations in previous years under “fluvial erosion control”. There will be meetings scheduled to discuss the topic. Pete encouraged the Commission to attend. He will send out a document to the Commissioners that explains river corridors.

IX. Upcoming events
None scheduled.

X. Next meeting: Thursday 10 December 2015.

XI. Adjournment
KR moved that the meeting be adjourned; DR seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee
Responses to Intertown Questionnaire
July 22, 2015

To help us write up a summary of our discussions, and identify common goals and objectives in our towns' conservation strategies and planning, please take a few minutes and complete this form.

a) Group composition:

Name, phone number, and email of group liaison:

Ken Johnson, current Chair, (802) 453-4147 home 453-4538 work, kdjvt@gmavt.net

Names and (briefly) strengths of members in your group*:

Pete Diminico - idea guy, grant administrator
Kristen Underwood - hydrogeologist, grant administrator
Dave Henderson - invasives control
Katie Reilley - wetlands, rare plants
Dave Rosen - Greenup Day coordinator, urban forestry
Richard Taylor -
Randy Durand - wildlife conservationist, birder, urban forestry
Devlin Rutherford - geologist
Ken Johnson - business owner/large landowner perspective

*If anyone would like to be identified as the go-to person in this regional effort, please let us know by placing an asterisk after their name.

b) Briefly summarize how your group's activities coordinate with your town plan, and if there are specific strategies and objectives you are currently working on.

We are guided by the town plan and helped write some of it. We are currently focused on maintaining recent projects (e.g., buffer plantings, river corridor conservation projects, interpretive trails, universal fishing platform) and stormwater concerns in the village (e.g., stenciling projects, rain gardens).

c) Is your group interested in meeting once or twice a year to work on regional-scale planning for conservation?

Potentially, depending upon the project(s), logistics and time commitments.

d) Please recap how much mapping and of what type you have done for your town. Are any of your maps publicly available through a website (please give URL)?

Lewis Creek Association mapped wildlife corridors (perhaps 15 yrs ago).

Vermont Geological Survey mapped surficial and bedrock geology of the town and prepared several derivative maps relating to groundwater aquifers (2015)
<http://www.amr.state.vt.us/dec/geo/ofreps.htm>

e) Is habitat connectivity a recognized objective in your town's conservation activities and strategies?

No. Migration is mentioned in the town plan as a desirable outcome, however there are not specific objectives around habitat connectivity.

Do your town's assessments of potential conservation parcels include a wildlife evaluation?

No comprehensive wildlife studies have been completed for the town. However, we do have a Biologically Significant Areas map in the appendices to our Town Plan. And individual conservation groups evaluating parcels for conservation (e.g., Vermont River Conservancy, Vermont Land Trust, others) evaluate potential for wildlife on a parcel-specific basis. When deciding whether to endorse and/or support fundraising for a conservation project proposed by others, the Bristol CC does discuss wildlife resources (e.g., Indiana Bat, Peregrine falcon, mammalian corridors, instream habitats for fish and macroinvertebrates) along with other ecosystem functions and values (e.g., flood attenuation, water quality) as well as cultural and historic resources.

Does your town require any special covenants for wildlife/habitat protection in conservation easements within your town?

Not that we are aware of.
Only state (e.g., peregrine falcons, special fishing regulations)

f) Is there anything else that your group would like to learn about adjacent towns that you will not learn through this exercise?

The group is not clear what is meant by "this exercise". We have some interest to know what projects other towns are working on, particularly where they may involve natural resources that cross town boundaries to include Bristol.