TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, April 14, 2016
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Steve Libby, Vermont River Conservancy

I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Public comment period.
Steve Libby to speak under Item VI. D. below.

III. Addition of items to the agenda.

IV. Approval of minutes of 10 March 2016
KU moved that the minutes of 10 March 2016 be approved; PD seconded; approved by all.

V. Correspondence
A. Emails related to items below.
B. Announcement from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions regarding the 2016 Tiny Grant Information; applications to be submitted before May 13, 2016.

VI. Old Business
D. (Taken out of order) Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Vermont Community Fund Grant; Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy to discuss potential projects in Bristol (see: http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/erp/docs/erp_report_LCB.pdf). Steve Libby from Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) was present to discuss the obligations under the grant provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. He explained that the project is divided into three parts:
- Watershed wide community outreach: Gabe Andrews, a graduate student in UVM's Place-based Landscape Analysis and Community Engagement (PLACE) Program will be facilitating collaboration for local presentations over the spring and summer. He will gather information on the watershed to address how communities have adapted to the dynamics of the New Haven River over time.
- Collaborations among Conservation Commissions: Steve will spearhead coordination in the three towns to create a joint focus on common experiences in the watershed.

- Town-based projects: the program will focus on developing projects in each of the three towns, with a grant amount of $3000 per town provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. In Lincoln, the Conservation commission might focus on issues that are pertinent primarily to the headwaters. Bristol might look at green infrastructure design, while New Haven might develop river-friendly farming and river corridor easements. In all cases, the grant money may be used to develop implementation plans, without necessarily using the funds for final construction.

Steve recommended the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) as a source of information. Claire Tebbs has already spoken with the Commission about rain gardens. There may be other opportunities for projects enhance stormwater control in an urban setting. Steve is expecting that Bristol will have identified a project by the end of the year.

Ken will write up a statement for the Front Porch Forum to invite residents in Bristol to contact Steve with suggestions for projects.

A. Green-Up Day: Saturday 7 May 2016.
Randy explained he had picked up the Green-Up Day materials from the Addison County Solid Waste District and they are ready for distribution. Dave Rosen will return in time to work with Randy at the Bristol Green activities.

B. Hogback Walking Trail: Proposal by the Watershed Center to develop a trail off Mountain Street in Bristol; on-going discussion.
There was no discussion at this time. Remove from agenda.

C. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update regarding the stormwater management project at the corner of Main St. and Mountain St.
Richard Butz has not yet completed construction. Put back on agenda when he's finished.

E. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update.
Randy had received the finalized document from Claire Tebbs; however, he could not print it out. Once he gets a legible document he will forward it to the Selectboard for their review.
Pete suggested that we might use Conservation Reserve Fund money to plant trees where recommended in the Management Plan.

F. Saunders River Access: update.
Kristen reported that the town had been asked to upgrade the driveway on the property by the Saunders River Access. The Road Commissioner reportedly inspected the area. Per Steve, the approved access is farther to the north, and not the driveway in question. Kristen also said there will be another drone flyover this week. This will add to the existing data previously collected.

G. Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee: update.
No update; remove from agenda.

H. Potential changes to Zoning Regulations regarding river corridor protection; update.
Sue Kavanaugh will notify the Commission when they are ready to discuss the issue. Remove from agenda until then.

I. Request from Vermont Land Trust to use Conservation Reserve Fund monies to support a farm conservation project in Bristol.
There is no interest in the project at this time. Remove item from the agenda.

J. Conservation Commission membership.

Ken had emailed Rick about his interest in staying on the Commission. He has not yet heard back from Rick.
Katie will mail list of Commissioners for review of reappointment schedules.

K. South Street Historical Walk: site inspection date.
Kristen had notified the Commission of her intention to walk the historical area on South Street. Katie and Dave H. met her there. Kristen had a copy of an Historical Society report on the factory that existed there in the 1800s. It was hard to imagine that so many buildings could have existed in such a small area.
There will be other opportunities for walks in the future.

L. Addison County Conservation Commissions: meeting update
Kristen attended the meeting, and will forward the minutes to the Commission. She added that now she as a slide presentation which is available for use by the Commission.

VII. New Business

A. Sycamore Park: Phoenix King Proposed Eagle Scout Project.
Ken expects that the Scout will inspect Sycamore Park and get back to him. Dave H. will contact Therese Kirby

B. National Park Service: Funds available for community-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects; apply by June 30.
There was no immediate interest in applying for funds.

VIII. Other

Randy said that the Mt. Abe Art teacher, Bruce Babbitt, contacted to him to say that he did not have a student who was interested in creating the New Haven River map we had discussed.
The Commission consensus was that the Eagle park fish access weathered the winter well.

IX. Upcoming events

A. Green-Up Day Saturday 7 May 2016.

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 12 May 2016.

XI. Adjournment

A. DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; KJ seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.