

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
AT 6:00 P.M. ON  
THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2016  
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Pete Diminico (PD) Acting Chair; Katie Reilley (KR), Clerk; David Henderson (DH); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD).

ALSO ATTENDING: No public present.

- I. Call to order.  
Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.  
No public present.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.  
See Items VI. I. and VIII. below.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 11 August 2016.  
The minutes of 11 August 2016 were amended to include the following clarifications:
  - Item III. A.: 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph; change “Motion passes 6 yes, one no (DH)” to “Motion approved by all.” Also, add “Kristen will attend a Selectboard meeting to make the request.”
  - Item VI. A.: Second paragraph, first sentence, change “improvement recommended” to “improvement at a site recommended”.
  - Item VI. C.: Change “his” football team to the “Middlebury College” football team.
  - Item VII. A.: 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; delete “any...in” and add “money available for this site under”.
  - Item VII. A.: Add at the end “Motion passes 6 yes, one no (DH).”

DH moved that the minutes of 11 August 2016 be approved as amended; PD seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence  
E-mails related to items listed below.
- VI. Old Business
  - A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Vermont Community Fund Grant; potential projects.  
Kristen reported that she had not yet heard anything further from Steve Libby regarding the Ecosystem Restoration Program grant applications. She anticipates that the Request For Proposals will be released in September, with applications for grants probably due in late October.

There was some discussion about inspecting some of the noted problem areas to evaluate our areas of concern regarding flooding. East Street has significant flooding issues and may actually be in greater need of green infrastructure than North Street. No one was aware of the status of the town's plan for stormwater improvements.

- B. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update.  
Randy discussed the draft management plan's recommendation for a Tree Warden and Tree Advisory Board. He would like to discuss same with Gary Clark of the Planning Commission, as they both attended the UCF class.
- C. Saunders River Access: Saunders River Access: transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.  
Kristen reported that Stever Bartlett brought 9 members of the Middlebury College football team to transplant cottonwood and sycamore trees at the Saunders River Access. They moved approximately 40 saplings from the river bar into the buffer. There are about 100 trees that have been transplanted in the area. Kristen is planning to locate and inventory the young trees in the spring when the surrounding vegetation has not yet grown or leafed out, and the saplings are easier to see.
- D. Conservation Commission membership: update.  
Caitlin Cusack remains interested in the work that the Conservation Commission performs, but not in becoming a commission member at this time. Pete will put another announcement into Front Porch Forum to advertise that there are vacancies on the Conservation Commission. We are lacking two members at present. Katie is to send the list of Commissioners out.
- E. South Street Historical Walk: update.  
Kristen has not heard anything else on the South Street trail.
- F. Flood Resilience Master's Project: coordination on presentation by Gabe Andrews; update.  
Kristen and Katie attended the flood resiliency presentation "Water Rising: River Stories" by Gabe Andrews on August 28, 2016. There were approximately 20 people in attendance. The event was primarily a talk by Gabe, accompanied by a slide program and video of people's stories of the river. There were also two additional storytellers who related their special memories of the river.  
Kristen said the presentation will be on NEAT TV for viewing.
- G. Sycamore Park: Phoenix King Proposed Eagle Scout Project: update.  
Pete had not heard from Phoenix King regarding his offer to help with the construction activities.  
There was discussion on some recent damage to some cottonwood trees on the parcel, as well as concern expressed about picnic tables floating downstream during storm events.
- H. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: coordination with Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Vermont River Conservancy; update.

Kristen attended the Selectboard meeting on August 22, 2016 and discussed the proposed treatment of the Japanese Knotweed on the River Conservancy easement on the Fuller property. After discussion the Selectboard approved \$1000 from the Conservation Reserve Fund to be used for the treatment.

As of this meeting the knotweed treatment had been completed by Robert Hyams as of 8 September 2016, with application of an herbicide to approximately 95% of the standing knotweed.

Kristen will apply for grants in future years to provide annual herbicide treatment until such time as the saplings planted for bank stabilization have been released and able to outcompete the knotweed.

- I. Farr/Fuller property: Request for funding to establish buffer along Baldwin Creek (item mistakenly missing from agenda).

Kristen also presented a request to the Selectboard to use \$2500 from the Conservation Reserve Fund to support tree plantings along the Baldwin Creek. The Selectboard had questions regarding the funding and future maintenance of the buffer, and voted to approve the use of CRF monies to assist in the project. The Conservation Commission had reviewed and supported the request at their September meeting. There was some discussion regarding the build-up of gravel in Baldwin Creek: this should be added to the next agenda.

## VII. New Business

## VIII. Other

- A. Pete brought up some issues with Eagle Park, including maintenance of the landscaping. Kristen has been stopping by and doing some train/plantings maintenance, as has Dave Henderson. The plexiglass in the kiosk has been damaged; Pete will make arrangements to get more plexiglass for repairs. Some additional work needs to be done on the surepac trail.

## IX. Upcoming events

- A.

## X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 13 October 2016.

## XI. Adjournment

- A. Next meeting

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; RD seconded; approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.