

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
13 OCTOBER 2016
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

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

ALSO ATTENDING: No public present.

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

II. Public comment period.
No public present.

III. Addition of items to the agenda; discussion at end of meeting.

A. Baldwin Creek/New Haven River Confluence: Discussion concerning possibility for gravel extraction.

Kristen had been asked by Peeker Heffernan to bring to the Commission the topic of possible gravel extraction at the confluence of Baldwin Creek and New Haven River. Erosion has occurred on a residential property along a section where the New Haven River flows north to the Baldwin Creek, and it is encroaching on the property. Bank stabilization might be needed to prevent damage to an existing building. It was suggested that perhaps some gravel extraction could remediate the on-going erosion of the bank.

The Commission discussed many aspects of bank stabilization and gravel extraction. Typically, the first step in the remediation of bank erosion is a request by the property owner to get the VT Department of Environmental Conservation staff to meet to discuss possible approaches. It was apparent that the scope of the gravel extraction would need to be defined before any impacts, either negative or positive, could be evaluated. In all likelihood, any such excavation would require engineering plans and hydraulic analyses, environmental permits, and a proactive sediment management plan. This would be costly and complicated.

There was general agreement that given that the Conservation Commission has not been approached by a landowner looking for assistance from the Town, we would not initiate any discussion with the state at this time.

B. Roleau Gateway Farm (Former Farr property): Buffer planting

Kristen provided a draft letter which she had written to be submitted to Pam Stefanek of the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District regarding the Roleau property buffer planting. In the letter, the Conservation Commission expresses its strong support of the proposed riparian buffer planting project along Baldwin Creek. It also mentions the \$2500 contribution from the Conservation Reserve Fund for the project. Kristen will forward the letter to Ken for his signature. The letter will be incorporated into the Trees for Streams grant application in collaboration with US Fish and Wildlife.

C. Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs): status in Bristol

There was discussion about Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (full title) and whether or not they can be incorporated into the Town of Bristol zoning regulations or town plan. AMPs are recommended techniques to be used to prevent sediment, petroleum products, and woody debris from entering Vermont's waters. While following the AMPs is recommended, they are not required. However, if water quality is adversely impacted as a result of logging, the operator can be fined. The Planning Commission is currently in the process of revising its zoning regulations, with an update to the Town Plan to follow. Randy will talk with Sue Kavanaugh, Planning Commission Chair, to discuss the appropriate approach to getting compliance with these recommended standards.

IV. Approval of minutes of 8 September 2016

PD moved that the minutes of 8 September 2016 be approved; DR seconded; approved by all.

V. Correspondence

E-mails related to items listed below; minutes from Selectboard meetings of September 5, 2016 and October 3, 2016.

VI. Old Business

A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Steve Libby to discuss Green Infrastructure projects for Vermont Community Fund Grant.

Steve Libby was not present, but he did send out an e-mail regarding his request to meet with the Conservation Commission to discuss the Lake Champlain Basin Program grant that Vermont River Conservancy received last winter. He had two topics to discuss:

- Landowner/Neighborhood Scale Storm Water Mitigation Projects; and,
- Lincoln-Bristol-New Haven Conservation commissions: collaboration to address flood resilience on a watershed scale.

Kristen will coordinate a meeting date with Steve.

B. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update.

No further update at this time.

C. Saunders River Access: Saunders River Access: transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.

Nothing to report at this time.

D. Conservation Commission membership: update.

Pete will put an item in Front Porch Form. Katie will update Commissioner's list and verify length of terms for those positions which are not filled.

E. South Street Historical Walk: update.

Kristen had gotten some information on a consultant (alexandramurphy.com) who creates professional level graphics which could be developed for the historic walk. She is waiting on getting the pricing information for the kiosk itself, but she did get prices on the researcher, who develops the best compilation of information (\$600), and the graphics person, who puts together the artistic layout (also \$600). The costs could be

- reduced as Kristen and the Historical Society already have quite a bit of background literature, photos, etc. of the area.
- Dave expressed some concern that the educational materials refer to some of the natural resource and conservation aspects of the site.
- F. Flood Resilience Master's Project: coordination on presentation by Gabe Andrews; update.
Project complete at this time. Remove from agenda.
- G. Sycamore Park: Phoenix King Proposed Eagle Scout Project: update.
Phoenix did receive approval from the Selectboard, but he has not since reached out to the Conservation Commission.
Randy mentioned that the person who had built and installed blue bird boxes had recently passed away. The Commission will review the birdhouses, trail system etc. of Sycamore Park this spring.
- H. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: coordination with Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Vermont River Conservancy; update.
Kristen is coordinating with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and VRC regarding grant opportunities for the treatment of the Japanese knotweed. She is also keeping in touch with Ben Gabos, the CREP coordinator as to the status of the buffer maintenance contract.
- I. Eagle Park: on-going maintenance discussion
Pete related that he had gotten a new cover for the kiosk, very heavy, and heavy duty. He's confident that the glass will last. He also suggested powerwashing the surface of the fishing platform.

VII. New Business

- A. Annual Meeting: election of officers
After a brief discussion, the current officers volunteered to remain as officers.
DR moved, and RD seconded, that Ken Johnson remain as Chairman, Pete Diminico as Vice-Chair, and Katie Reilley as Clerk. Approved by all.
- B. New Haven River, Bartlett Falls: request by the Addison County River Watch
Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality; to be installed this Fall.
Kristen had received a request by the River Watch to install signposts providing information on E. coli levels in the New Haven River at Bartlett Falls. She will carry forward the request to get a zoning permit and Selectboard approval.

VIII. Other

The Town Hall door was locked and the alarm was set, and the Commission members had to wait for the Bristol police to arrive to unlock the door. As this is the third month in a row this has happened, we will call the Town Clerk's office on the day of our meeting to request that the alarm be turned off.

IX. Upcoming events

- X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 10 November 2016.

X. Adjournment

DR moved that the meeting be adjourned; RD seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.