

TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
HELD AT HOLLEY HALL
AT 6:00 PM ON
THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2017

In attendance: Ken Johnson (KJ), Dave Rosen (DR), Randy Durand (RD), Pete Diminico (PD), Dave Henderson (DH), Kristen Underwood (KU)

Members of the public: Carolyn Dash, Richard Butz, Gail Butz, Jim Stapleton

- I. Call to Order
Meeting called to order by KJ at 6:03 PM KJ, DR, RD, PD, DH, KU
- II. Public Comment Period - None
- III. Addition of Items to the Agenda - None
- IV. Approval of Minutes from 8 December 2016
PD made a motion to approve last month's minutes, seconded by DR. Minutes approved.
- V. Correspondence –
-email attachment of Annual Report prepared by Katie Reilley and KJ (see item VII.A)
-emails from Richard Butz and Jim Stapleton transmitting their resumes (see item VI.D)
- VI. Old Business (Items VI.D and VI.E taken out of order)
 - A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant
KU reported no new correspondence from Steve Libby at Vermont River Conservancy
 - B. Bristol Village Tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program update - RD: nothing to report
 - C. Saunders River Access
Discussion regarding possible spring tree plantings and ongoing maintenance to steward buffer area – and challenges to sapling survival including crowding by weeds/tall grass and last year's moderate drought conditions. DH will inquire about availability and costs for a local steward to tend to plantings. KU noted efficiency of coordinating ongoing efforts on this site with pending buffer stewardship at adjacent Paul Fuller property (see item VI.G)
 - D. Conservation Commission Membership update
The Commission heard from three residents who have expressed interest in filling two open slots on the Commission in response to a call for new members posted on Front Porch Forum by

PD. Each candidate spent 5 minutes presenting their background and experience, and identified how they might contribute to the Commission.

- Carolyn Dash has a PhD in Ecology from University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign, worked most recently as a visiting professor at Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, and has recently moved to Bristol. She has experience in K-12 as well as undergraduate education and would be most interested in education and outreach projects at the Commission.
- Richard Butz is a retired professor who taught previously at Buffalo State College, was a volunteer with Friends of Buffalo River/ Buffalo Water River Keepers mentoring inner city students in boat building and water quality sampling and now serves on the Board of Addison County River Watch. He is interested in implementation projects at the local level to steward the environment.
- Jim Stapleton has PhD in environmental science, is a retired professor, and formerly a Research Assistant at the Mohonk Preserve and Dir. Of Studies at the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary. He envisions contributing to the Commission in at least three areas: 1.inventory of natural resources, 2. Trail development and maintenance (he is an avid walker and biker) 3. Communication – he is a fiction writer, grant writer.

In discussions after the three candidates were excused, the CC members expressed their interest in all three candidates, who could offer diverse and complementary knowledge and skills to the Commission. PD offered to review the bylaws and state regulations to determine the maximum number of members permitted on the Commission. DR offered that he could step down as a Commission member, in anticipation of increasing out-of-town travel in the coming months. This action would leave 3 positions open on the Commission. In light of this revelation, DH made a **motion to recommend to the Selectboard the approval of all 3 candidates (Dash, Butz, and Stapleton), and at the same time accept the resignation of DR with gratitude for his many years of service.** PD seconded the motion, which was **unanimously approved.**

- E. South Street Historical Walk: update
KU reported recent email correspondence with Sandra Murphy who is compiling cost estimate data for interpretive signage. KU will ask if Sandra can present this information at the Feb or March meeting.
- F. Flood Resilience Master's Project: Presentation by Gabe Andrews on New Haven River
KU reported that Gabe contacted her in December to ask if he could postpone his presentation until the Feb 2017 meeting.
- G. Paul Fuller site; control of Japanese Knotweed; coordination with Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Vermont River Conservancy: update
KU reported that corridor-easement-holder, VRC, submitted a grant proposal to Lake Champlain Basin Program in December that would fund plantings and JK control on the Fuller property. The support letter from Bristol CC accompanied this grant application. Notification of grant awards is pending.

H. Eagle Park: ongoing maintenance

Members discussed a possible work day in May – including pressure washing the UFP deck.

I. New Haven River, Bartlett's Falls; request by the Addison County River Watch Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality.

KU reported that the Selectboard-approved and permitted sign location has been staked, but the onset of cold weather has postponed sign installation until spring.

VII. New Business

A. Annual Report for 2016

Katie Reilley and KJ prepared the Commission's annual report for inclusion in the Town Report – which was distributed with the meeting agenda via email

VIII. Other - None

IX. Events - None

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 9 February 2017.

XI. Adjournment

DH made a motion to adjourn, seconded by PD. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Kristen Underwood