

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
11 MAY 2017
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Pete Diminico (PD) Vice-Chair; Katie Reilley (KR), Clerk; David Henderson (DH); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD); Carolyn Dash (CD); Jim Stapleton (JS).

ALSO ATTENDING: Dave Rosen, resident, former commissioner

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order by Pete Diminico, Vice-Chair, at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
Dave Rosen in attendance regarding Green-Up Day and other issues.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
None.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 13 April 2017.
JS moved that the minutes of 13 April 2017 be approved; RD seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence.
E-mails related to items listed below.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Conservation Commission Membership: on-going discussion of special interests of commissioners; updated list of Conservation Commissioners.
Katie provided a current list of Bristol Conservation Commissioners, as coordinated with the Town Office Staff, as established with the Bristol Selectboard. Katie will continue to communicate with Town Office staff to be sure we're up to date.

Regarding the interests of commissioners, Randy handed out a summary of Commissioner responses to Kristen's abbreviated list of Goals and Purposes, which had been filled out by most Commissioners at the last meeting. He had consolidated the information and summarized it on a sheet entitled "Bristol Conservation Commission...Goals/Purposes". He then requested that the Commissioners chose and prioritize three items from the list of goals and purposes on which they would like to work. Randy will consolidate the responses.
 - B. River Corridor Protection: Review of presentation by Gabe Andrews to the Planning Commission on 18 April 2017 regarding river corridor planning and management and participation by the VT DEC River Scientist & Floodplain Manager Sacha Pealer. Commissioners who had attended the Planning Commission meeting were most impressed with the presentation by Gabe Andrews and the support provided by Sacha

Peale. The Planning Commission showed interest in the topic, but did not take any immediate action.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Commission was to encourage additional review by the Planning Commission. Kristen will write a letter to the Planning Commission on behalf of the Conservation Commission to request an additional meeting of the two commissions, hopefully with Sacha Peale of VT DEC and Adam Lougee of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Kristen will emphasize the benefits of river corridor planning (saves lives, save money and property, improve water quality, reduce liability, build flood resiliency, etc.). She will distribute the draft letter to the Commissioners for comments.

C. South Street Historical Walk: update.

Kristen discussed the scope of work to be recommended at this point in time included:

- A sign at the parking pull-off, to be designed by Sandra Murphy and built by her associate in Vergennes; and,
- A kiosk with other historical/cultural materials.

Kristen is looking to apply for grants, and to engage in other fundraising. The project at this scale would cost around \$2500. The consensus of the Commission was that the scale of the project as Kristen described it was appropriate.

D. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: update.

Kristen and Pete have been investigating options for controlling the Japanese knotweed on the Fuller property. Kristen was looking for help in installing 6' tall stakes that are to be placed to identify locations of the stands of knotweed. Robert Hyams will be applying herbicide in late July or early August. Right now the knotweed is quite visible and easy to locate, but will be hidden by vegetation by mid to late summer. Kristen expects to go out on Thursday May 25th to install the stakes.

E. Saunders River Access: coordination regarding maintenance, spring transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.

This item was tabled.

F. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant; discussion regarding the rain barrel for expanding green infrastructure, including making rain barrels available.

Therese Kirby had sent Richard an email in response to his request concerning possible reimbursement of \$570.00 from the Conservation Reserve Fund for the purchase of rain barrel kits. In her response Therese stated that that was not the voted intention of the fund, and that the BCC should contact her to schedule an appointment with the Selectboard.

Richard was not present to discuss the results of the rain barrel project, so further discussion was tabled.

G. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update regarding Tree Warden.

According to Randy's discussion with Therese, David Brynn was reappointed to the position of Tree Warden, but he doesn't have the time to participate in a Bristol urban forest management plan.

Carolyn added that she has contacts at Middlebury College and might be able to get support from forestry staff should we go that route.

- H. Eagle Park: on-going maintenance discussion; update.
On Saturday, 6 May 2017, BCC Commissioners worked on the Eagle Park landscaping, pulling weeds and putting down mulch. The Highway Crew will be taking care of the picnic table.
- I. New Haven River, Bartlett Falls: Addison County River Watch Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality; to be done in the spring.
Kristen will be working with Matt to get this done in June, when water sampling begins.
- J. Town Natural Resource Map for Town Meeting Day: update. Information concerning the status of the Eastern Coyote in Vermont and associated management strategies; discussion. (Please note: this description will be listed as two separate items in the next agenda.)
This item was tabled.
- K. Addison County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: discussion on biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol.
Jim has been talking with Porter Knight and would like to invite her to the next BCC meeting. The Commission supported this idea, and Jim will confirm this with Porter.
Jim had attended a recent discussion on the economics of trails. He encouraged the Commission to check out the Vermont Digger website for an article on trail politics.
- L. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources website BioFinder: discussion of presentation on use of software (<http://biofinder.vermont.gov>)
Jim spoke with Monica Pryzperhart of Vermont Natural Resources and she can schedule a presentation for the BCC September meeting. After some discussion the Commission recommended that Jim set up an introductory meeting of about a half hour for an introduction to BioFinder, and then set up a larger, longer presentation for the public at a later date.
- M. Green-Up Day: Saturday, May 6, 2017.
Discussion on participation, results, publicity, etc.
Dave Rosen and Randy discussed the results of the Green-Up Day activities at the Town Green. Participation seemed to be about the same as in previous years, resulting in about 3 tons of trash, including 2500 pounds of tires. The weather was not good this year, with heavy rain early in the day. Many green bags were placed on roadsides on the previous Thursday and Friday.
In addition to the trash collection, there were two other BCC sponsored events at the same time: Eagle Park landscaping and rain barrel project with Richard Butz and the Recreation staff. Next year we should schedule events on different days to minimize conflict and increase participation.

VII. New Business

A. Town of Bristol Resources: Disseminating information about the natural and cultural resources of Bristol.

Carolyn discussed her frustration with the lack of good information about Bristol's parks, open space, and other town properties. As a newcomer to the Bristol area, she had consulted a number of different books to identify the interesting properties in Bristol, and could not find a definitive source or maps that would help. The information available from the town was of inferior quality. She presented the information that she had and distributed two handouts: "Bristol's Natural and Cultural Resources" which she authored and "Hiking in/near Bristol" (from the Rec Dept.). She asked the Commissioners to look at both and add/delete/correct as appropriate. She is very enthusiastic about providing accurate and thorough information about the Town's natural resources. She also volunteered to create a website to offer this information to the public.

VIII. Other

A. Therese Kirby, Town Manager, stopped by during the meeting to discuss the clean-up of a trash dump just off the side of Notch Road. Apparently someone has been using the steep slope on the south side of Notch Road as a dump, resulting in a collection of garbage at the bottom of the ravine. The removal of the garbage will be difficult due to the physical location of the trash. Therese has to discuss the issue with the Selectboard, but she is asking for the Commission's cooperation in organizing the effort to clean up the location. The Commission agreed to assist.

IX. Upcoming events.

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 8 June 2017.

XI. Adjournment

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; JS seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.