

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 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:** Steve Libby, Vermont River Conservancy; Matthew Raymon and Olivia Weiland, UVM.

**I. Call to order.**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Public comment period.**

UVM students Matthew Raymon and Olivia Weiland were present to discuss their collaboration with Bristol's CORE, as part of their class with Kelly Hamshaw in the UVM Department of Community Development & Applied Economics. Their primary goal at this point in their class semester is to evaluate community interest in establishing a trail system within the Town of Bristol and adjacent communities. One possibility would create a trail that would connect Bristol Falls with Bristol Village. Another might improve the Deer Leap trail; yet another might address that old railroad track system.

Some of the topics to be addressed in developing a hiking trail plan included:

- Overall map showing possible trails connections and designated parking areas
- Property owners
- Potential users
- Funding sources, including grants; and,
- Survey by BCC at Town Meeting to gauge interest

There was a clear consensus among the Conservation Commissioners that we support the initiative to develop a plan for hiking trails in the Bristol area, as demonstrated by projects already undertaken by the Commission. Steve Libby also offered access to Noah Pollock the Vermont River Conservancy regarding grant sources.

Matthew and Olivia will keep in touch with the Commission, and will possibly come back to the Commission in the spring. Hopefully their course work will be picked up by other students to continue the project in future semesters.

**III. Addition of items to the agenda.**

**IV. Approval of minutes of 10 November 2016**

KU moved that the minutes of 10 November 2016 be approved; DR seconded; approved by all.

**V. Correspondence**

E-mails related to items listed below.

VI. Old Business

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

Steve Libby was present to address the status of our Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) grant. The three segments of the grant have been partially addressed, and Steve will be checking with LCBP regarding his progress. Grant completion is scheduled for the end of December.

Some of the items discussed included:

- Gabe Andrews slide program and presentation on connecting people with narratives of the river (to be on January agenda);
- Responses from Front Porch Forum on residents interested in participating on green stormwater infrastructure;
- The process for choosing projects and working with consultants (or Addison County Regional Planning Commission) to develop implementation steps; and,
- Funding possibilities.

The Ecological Restoration Program will be offering more funding opportunities in March of 2017. Steve will work on setting up a collaborative meeting with Lincoln, Bristol and New Haven.

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

No updates at this time.

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

No updates at this time.

D. Conservation Commission membership: update. Pete will put an item in Front Porch forum inviting new commissioners.

E. South Street Historical Walk: update.

No updates at this time.

F. Flood Resilience Master's Project: coordination on presentation by Gabe Andrews; update.

See Item VI.A above.

G. Sycamore Park: Phoenix King Proposed Eagle Scout Project: update.

Remove from agenda.

H. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: coordination with Vermont Agency of Agriculture and Vermont River Conservancy; update.

Kristen presented a draft letter to be sent to Meg Modley of the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) regarding the application by Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) for a grant to control the Japanese knotweed present within the buffer area. She explained that we need to move forward with our support of the grant application in the event that more work needs to be done on the knotweed.

KR moved that the Conservation Commission endorse Kristen's letter to LCBP supporting VRC's grant application; PD seconded. Approved by all.

I. Eagle Park: on-going maintenance discussion.

No updates at this time.

J. 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; project on-going.

VII. New Business

VIII. Other

Randy reported that he and representatives of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) had hiked the Deer Leap area property owned and managed by TNC. During the walk they found a significant amount of orange tape marking certain trees, in part following a hiking trail, and apparent disturbance to part of the trails.

No one was aware of any authorized activity on the property. Randy will continue to check on the area.

IX. Upcoming events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 12 January 2017.

X. Adjournment

PD moved that the meeting be adjourned; KR seconded; approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.