

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

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Porter Knight (Item VI. A.); Therese Kirby, Town Manager

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

- II. Public comment period.
Porter Knight present for Item VI.A. and Item VI. D.
Therese Kirby stopped by and was asked about the plans for the Upper Notch Road clean-up. She said that the location is problematic due to the steepness and extent of the drop from the road to the stream, and will require skilled personnel and equipment to remove the debris. The Selectboard has approved the effort, which is scheduled for August. She intends to publicize the clean-up, as well as install “No dumping” signs.

- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
Katie added an update regarding the work effort to pull wild parsnip from the Roleau riparian buffer along the Baldwin Creek (formerly Fuller property).
Item not discussed.

- IV. Approval of minutes of 11 May 2017
JS moved that the minutes of 11 May 2017 be approved; DH seconded; approved by all.

- V. Correspondence.
E-mails related to items listed below.
 - A. E-mail from Kristen Underwood to Susan Kavanagh on 8 June 2017 transmitting a memorandum from the Conservation Commission regarding River Corridors in Planning and Zoning dated 16 May 2017.
 - B. E-mail from Kristen Underwood to the Conservation Commission on 8 June 2017 transmitting a draft memo to the Bristol Historical Society regarding the Proposal for Historical Marker at the former location of Bristol Manufacturing Company.

- VI. Old Business
 - A. Addison County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan: discussion with Porter Knight on biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol.
Porter Knight addressed the efforts of the Bristol Rec Club (independent of the Addison County Plan) to spearhead a multi-use trail system in and encircling Bristol Village. The idea for developing trails has been discussed for many years, without action taken to see it happen. Porter has already spoken with over 90 people to

measure the level of interest in a trail system in the town. Bristol CORE is involved in the discussions as well.

Porter will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, June 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the new Bristol Fire House to develop ideas and visions of a possible trail system. She believes in the “working team” concept to further expand the plan, with the theme “Get in the woods without getting in your car”. The intention is to build community connections as well as to create a draw for visitors to the area.

- B. Conservation Commission Membership: on-going discussion of special interests of commissioners.

Randy will be consolidating information.

- C. River Corridor Protection: discussion of memorandum sent to the Planning Commission regarding river corridor planning.

Kristen discussed the May 16th Planning Commission meeting during which the Commission addressed the BCC memo requesting continued action on river corridor planning. She said the Planning Commission agreed to have Sacha Pealer from VT Agency of Natural Resources Rivers Program and the Bristol Conservation Commission at an upcoming meeting to continue the discussion.

- D. South Street Historical Walk: update. (Taken out of order after Item VI.A.)

Kristen reviewed the background of the proposed South Street Bristol Historical Walk for Porter’s benefit. She then discussed her draft memo to the Bristol Historical Society (BHS) regarding the proposal for the historical marker with design details and an estimate of cost. At this point, Kristen would need to submit the proposal to the Historical Society for acceptance, submit to the Selectboard for approval, and then work with BHS in fundraising.

JS made a motion to advance KU’s proposal for a historical marker at the former location of the Bristol Manufacturing Company, and to meet with the Bristol Historical Society. PD seconded; approved by all.

- E. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: update on work done May 25, 2017.

Kristen, Jim and Randy met with Robert Hyman (with family member) and Vermont River Conservancy representatives to stake out the Japanese knotweed to be treated with Round-Up in August. Several hundred plants were flagged on 6’ bamboo stakes out, some singly, some in clumps. Work lasted for about 3 hours.

Note: Diane Saunders has requested that she be notified prior to any treatment with Round-Up as she rides her horse in the area.

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

Dave and Kristen weed-whacked and pulled weeds around some of the trees that had been planted in the area. Approximately 200 trees had been planted over the last two years: only 20 or so are still viable. There are few hardwood trees remaining, although there are some poplars. Most are white pine.

Pete urged the Commission to be more diligent (and early) in their maintenance of the weeds around the trees, and recommended they be maintained at least 3 times a year.

- G. **Green Stormwater Infrastructure:** Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant; discussion regarding the rain barrel for expanding green infrastructure, including making rain barrels; payment to Richard Butz for rain barrels.
Richard participated in the Recreation Department event on Green-Up Day. He said there were about 12 participants: none purchased a rain barrel kit. He did, however, sell the rain barrels to interested people at his church, so he is not looking for any compensation for his earlier expenditures.
He continues to look for opportunities to interest people in rain barrels; however, he will not be able to attend Pocock Rocks or the 4th of July activities. Ken said he will help out with the 4th of July table. Ken and Richard will coordinate on this effort.
- H. **Bristol Village tree inventory:** Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program.
Nothing new.
- I. **Eagle Park:** on-going maintenance discussion; update.
Pete was at the site recently and everything looks great.
- J. **New Haven River, Bartlett Falls:** Addison County River Watch Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality.
Sometime soon, as the eColi testing has started.
- K. **Town Natural Resource Map for Town Meeting Day:** update.
Nothing new; remove from agenda.
- L. **Information concerning the status of the Eastern Coyote in Vermont and associated management strategies;** discussion.
State studies will not be completed until December. Remove from agenda at this time.
- M. **Vermont Agency of Natural Resources website BioFinder:** discussion on use of software (<http://biofinder.vermont.gov>) and upcoming presentations.
Jim has arranged for state representative, Monica Przyperhart to make a presentation to the commission. She asked if there were specific topics to address. It was suggested that we focus on town-owned properties.
Monika will be first on September's agenda.
- N. **Green-Up Day:** Saturday, May 6, 2017.
Discussion on participation, results, publicity, etc.; final tally.
Randy added a correction to the amount of tires collected: 2500 pounds of tires, not 2500 tires. Still impressive!
Take item off the agenda.
- O. **Town of Bristol Resources:** Disseminating information about the natural and cultural resources of Bristol.
Carolyn had requested that the Commissioners look at her two handouts from the previous meeting (Bristol Hiking Trails from the Recreation Department and her Bristol Resources summary. Several items had been noted, in particular, the earlier

history of the Bristol Cliffs for mining silver, adding Saunders River Access and a few other items. Carolyn will continue to incorporate and investigate.

VII. New Business

A. Notch Road clean-up: discussion. (See Item II. above.)

VIII. Other

IX. Upcoming events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 13 July 2017.

XI. Adjournment

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; RD seconded; approved by all.
Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.