

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

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Pete Diminico (PD) Acting Chair; Katie Reilley (KR), Clerk; Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD); Richard Butz (RB); Carolyn Dash (CD); Jim Stapleton (JS).

**ALSO ATTENDING:** No public present.

- I. Call to order.  
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Acting Chair Pete Diminico.
- II. Public comment period.  
No public present.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.  
No new items for action.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 8 June 2017.  
Katie explained that Dave Henderson had corrected the minutes under Item IV. E to delete his name (and added Randy Durand). RB moved that the minutes of 8 June 2017 be approved as amended; JS seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence.  
E-mails related to items listed below.
- VI. Old Business (several items taken out of order)
  - A. Eagle Park: on-going maintenance discussion; update; evaluation of recent damage from heavy rains.  
Recent heavy rains damaged the walkway to the fishing platform; however, the fishing platform itself appeared to be free of damage. The existing boulders deflected much of the energy from the heavy runoff flow.  
Pete checked with Therese Kirby about getting some repair work done. Therese advised him to get in touch with Pete Bouvier, Bristol Road Foreman, to find out about possibly scheduling assistance and use of town equipment. The town crew is very busy at this time.  
Pete will send an e-mail to notify the Commission of a date for a work weekend.
  - B. Trails Around Bristol (formerly itemized as Addison County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan): discussion regarding biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol. Carolyn and Jim discussed recent meetings and coordination with Porter Knight. Several committees have already been established and are working on gathering information. These committees will address engineering, trail building and grant opportunities.  
Porter will be on the agenda for August.

E. South Street Historical Walk: update.

Kristen made significant steps in moving the project forward since our last meeting. At the June meeting, the Bristol Historical Society heard from the Conservation Commission and Porter Knight, and endorsed the proposal to develop the South Street Historical Walk. They also will provide their membership e-mail list for solicitations for the project.

The proposal was also presented to the Selectboard at their June 26, 2017 meeting, and the Selectboard advised that the Conservation Commission should apply for a zoning permit. There was general discussion of the interpretive trail.

Pete & Kristen measured the site for distance from the South Street centerline right-of-way in order to fill out the zoning permit application. It is possible that a variance will be required.

There was also discussion at the Commission meeting about others who might be involved in the project:

- Ian Albinson from CORE (Bristol Community Resources) is interested in creating sign cohesion around the Village/Town;
- Kevin Hansen is offering to develop “coffin beer” (or ale) to celebrate the project, with a portion of the proceeds to go to the project
- Reg Dearborn from BHS will be compiling more history; and,
- David Brynn will be asked to evaluate the removal of some low-hanging trees.

Kristen had developed a brochure describing the project, to be used to solicit donations and to post around town. There was much discussion about the brochure. Kristen was going to make edits and send it out to BHS. There probably need to be a separate write-up for the Front Porch Forum.

Kristen said there will be two work days in August with the trail-building committee and others.

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

Carolyn had received a brochure from Porter Knight, entitled “Hiking Trails Bristol Vermont” compiled by the Bristol Area Chamber of Commerce by John R. Burbank that was written in the 1960s. It describes points of interest, hiking trails and caves in the area (including some Lincoln sites).

In an e-mail dated June 16, 2017 Dave Henderson informed the Commission that he had been to Memorial Park and found recent routine maintenance repairs to the trails. The Bristol American Legion and its Commander Ron Larose have assisted. Dave also mentioned that the town has contracts with Henry Ramsey and Paul Davis to maintain Eagle and Sycamore Parks, and the Shattuck picnic tables on Route 116 just north of River Road. He also suggested looking at the former Drake-Smith mill just downstream of Prayer Rock.

Carolyn will continue to explore other sources of information about Bristol, and encourages the Commission members to do the same. She continues to move forward in inventorying natural resource and trails data.

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

Randy had compiled the information previously submitted by Conservation Commissioners to look for levels of interest in different aspects of our mission statement and goals. The purpose of doing this is to generate interest and to have a list of projects to work on. He also suggested that there are projects that could be initiated by BCC that might be of interest to the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions, or to Vermont Fish and Wildlife. He mentioned specifically the sandhill cranes located in Bristol, which he feels would benefit from protection, and should be tracked by the state.

- D. River Corridor Protection: discussion of memorandum sent to the Planning Commission regarding river corridor planning.  
Kristen has arranged to have Sacha Pealer from the Rivers Program at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources attend the Bristol Planning Commission meeting on September 19, 2017. Kristen encouraged the Conservation Commissioners to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting she will be putting together an outline of the material to be discussed.  
Pete expressed his thanks and appreciation to Kristen for continuing to address river corridor planning and zoning strategies with the Bristol Planning Commission. She has worked hard to keep the topic in front of the Planning Commission, and hopefully will move it forward. Katie Meyer is the new Planning Commission Chair.
- F. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: update on work done May 25, 2017.  
Kristen explained that fieldwork with the Vermont River Conservancy was done to flag the Japanese knotweed plants to be removed.  
Kristen also addressed on-going discussions with Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC), and the Fuller family, to evaluate the future use, and ownership, of the 14.7 acre parcel, just downstream of the Saunders River Access owned by the town. Kristen, Randy and Steve will be meeting with the Fullers on June 22, 2017 to discuss their interest in the future status of the property.  
RB made a motion that Randy and Kristen to continue to move forward on the possible town purchase of the parcel. JS seconded. Approved by all.
- G. Saunders River Access: coordination regarding maintenance, spring transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.  
Kristen explained that there is funding available from the Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District to purchase more trees for planting in the buffer area. Pam Stefanik of the OCNRCD had spoken with Kristen about submitting a grant application on behalf of the Town of Bristol. Kristen will make arrangements to work with Stever Bartlett and the Middlebury College Ski Team to plant the stock, which is bare root stock. Additional help could be solicited through Front Porch Forum. This would be scheduled for the spring of 2018.
- H. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant; discussion regarding the rain barrel for expanding green infrastructure, including making rain barrels.  
Steve Libby has been successful in having his grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program extended. He will be contacting the Commission to set up a meeting to discuss prioritization of projects in town.

- I. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program.  
Randy expects that this item may be put on the agenda this fall, but it should be removed at present.
  - J. New Haven River, Bartlett Falls: Addison County River Watch Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality.  
The sign was posted, but was then removed. ACRWC will take care of it. Remove item from agenda.
  - K. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources website BioFinder: discussion on use of software (<http://biofinder.vermont.gov>) and upcoming presentations.  
Jim said the half-hour presentation is scheduled for our September meeting.
  - L. Notch Road clean-up: discussion.  
No work has been scheduled yet: area is too wet.
  - M. Roleau (formerly Farr) Farm: Vermont Land Trust wild parsnip control.  
There were 5 volunteers who worked at pulling out the wild parsnip in the buffer area south of the driveway. The plants were cut below the ground surface and bagged.
- VII. New Business
- A. Randy discussed the availability of funding for town forest management.
- VIII. Other
- IX. Upcoming events
- A. 10 August 2017: Porter Knight at BCC meeting.
  - B. 19 September 2017: Sacha Pealer at Planning Commission meeting.
- X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 10 August 2017.
- XI. Adjournment
- JS moved that the meeting be adjourned; RB seconded; approved by all.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.