

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

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

ALSO ATTENDING: Zapata Courage, District Wetland Ecologist VT Agency of Natural Resources (VNR); Monica Przyperhart of VNR; Steve Libby, Vermont River Conservancy (VRC).

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
Public present to discuss items below.

VI. Old Business (Item taken out of order)

- A. Discussion with Zapata Courage, District Wetland Ecologist, regarding the Beaver Meadows wetland classification.

During the last month, Kristen Underwood had contacted Reg Dearborn from the Bristol Historical Society regarding the southern boundary of the Town of Bristol. Mr. Dearborn provided Kristen with documentation that indicated 800 acres had been annexed from the Town of Ripton to the Town of Bristol in 1912. This acreage included a portion of the Beaver Meadows wetland.

Ms. Courage addressed the mapping updates to include the 800 acre segment that had been annexed to the Town of Bristol in 1912. With this property included, the acreage of wetland and wetland buffer is reallocated, as follows:

- Approximately 15.5 acres of wetland and 67 acres of buffer are in Bristol;
- Approximately 6.75 acres of buffer in Middlebury; and,
- Approximately 50 acres of wetland and 95.5 acres of buffer in Ripton.

Ms. Zapata was to review the petition by the Town of Ripton to be sure the information was corrected.

There was discussion concerning the process of changing the Class 2 wetland status to Class 1, and the impacts of such a change. (See minutes from 10 August 2017 for discussion of justification for the proposed change). The Determination Petition will be submitted by the Town of Ripton to VNR Vermont Wetlands Program. Once accepted there will be a public comment period providing an opportunity for additional input.

The Conservation Commission discussed the need to review their endorsement of the proposed reclassification, as was voted at their 10 August 2017 meeting, given the increase in the acreage in Bristol. The Commission continued to endorse the concept of reclassifying the wetland to Class I. RB moved, and JS seconded that the

Conservation Commission support the Ripton Conservation Commission petition for reclassification of the Beaver Meadow Wetland Complex from Class II to Class I designation. Approved by all.

- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 10 August 2017
RB moved that the minutes of 10 August 2017 be approved; JS seconded; approved by all.
- VI. J. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources website BioFinder: presentation by Monica Przyperhart of VT ANR. (taken out of order)
Ms. Przyperhart thanked the Commission for their interest in BioFinder 2016, which is a mapping/resource software program created by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. The purpose of the software is to provide readily accessible information about natural resources in the State of Vermont, to assist in resource protection. Ms. Przyperhart explained the significance of using older maps and comparing them to more recent maps to understand the patterns of development that are impacting our natural resources.
Ms. Przyperhart provided the Commission with a “Tips and Tools Booklet” to help them understand and access the large amount of information available for use. Tutorials are also available on the BioFinder website <http://biofinder.vermont.gov> to guide one through the data, offering many layers of specific information. Particularly useful is the “Quick Tools” prompt which gives an outline of available tools.
The Commission appreciated the information and will put the website to good use.
- V. Correspondence.
E-mails related to items listed below.
 - A. Email from Kristen Underwood to Bristol Historical Society dated 8/1/17 transmitting a fundraising flyer for the proposed interpretive sign at Bristol Manufacturing Co. (see attached).
 - B. Email from Kristen Underwood dated 16 August 2017 regarding the location of the Beaver Meadow Wetland.
 - C. Email from Jim Stapleton dated August 17, 2017 documenting features of the Beaver Meadow Wetland.
 - D. Email from Kristen Underwood dated August 18, 2017 documenting historical changes to Bristol/Ripton town boundaries in 1912.
 - E. (added) Email from Zapata Courage, regarding Beaver Meadows dated August 21, 2017 delineating wetland acreage in the three towns (Bristol, Ripton, Middlebury).
- VI. Old Business (continued)
 - I. Saunders River Access: coordination regarding maintenance, spring transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.
Steve Libby (Vermont River Conservancy) was present to discuss the management of the Saunders River Access. Kristen explained the schedule for plantings next spring, and the maintenance of saplings and control of adjacent Japanese knotweed. She also expressed concern about some wild parsnip that appears to be taking hold, and wants to be sure that wild parsnip is not allowed to get a foot hold on the property.

Steve supported the idea of developing a plan and schedule for site work and will update the management plan accordingly.

D. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Discussion with Steve Libby regarding the status of Vermont Community Fund Grant.

Steve addressed the need to complete his original grant requirements, which include identifying three viable stormwater green infrastructure projects in Bristol. The Commission discussed the project list previously given to Steve in 2016.

He and the Commission discussed several possible sites (Berstein, Bouvier, Deas).

Pete will contact the landowners to find out if the sites are still viable.

Once these are confirmed Steve will develop conceptual plans and other documents to submit to the Lake Champlain Basin Program for funding. Applications will probably be accepted in mid-October.

B. South Street Historical Walk: update on South St/Bristol Manuf Col Site Trails Group work: (past) August 26, 2017.

Kristen reported that about 15 people came to South Street to help out with the site exploration and clean-up. She also said that the fund supporting the project already has about \$675 in it, and an email was just sent out soliciting additional funds.

Also discussed was the proposal by Sandra Murphy for signage for the site. The smaller sign she proposed would cost approximately \$2280 plus kiosk materials. The conceptual mock-up, which could also be used in the kiosk, would cost about \$600.

PD moved, and KR seconded, that the Commission advance \$600 to Sandra Murphy for the mock-up of the display for the South Street Historical Site. Approved by all.

C. (added) Trails Around Bristol (formerly itemized as Addison County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan) discussion regarding biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol.

No report.

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

Carolyn is working on the brochure, and enjoying the exploration of Bristol. More information scheduled for the November meeting.

E. Eagle Park: on-going maintenance discussion; update; update on efforts to repair damage from heavy rains.

The site is doing very well.

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

Nothing at this time.

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

The Chair of the Planning Commission notified Kristen that the Planning Commission will have to reschedule the meeting with ANR representative Sacha Pealer. Kristen will

continue to keep the item open for discussion, and invited the Planning Commission to meet with the Conservation Commission at their convenience.

H. Paul Fuller site: control of Japanese Knotweed: update on work done May 25, 2017. Kristen reported that the Japanese knotweed management plan, including spraying round-up, has been completed.

K. Notch Road clean-up: discussion.

A new Town Manager, Valerie Capels, has been hired, and the Town is also looking for a new Assistant Town Clerk. This change of staff may delay town activities for a short while.

L. Roleau (formerly Farr) Farm: Vermont Land Trust wild parsnip control. Nothing to report.

VII. New Business

VIII. Other

A. Vermont River Conservancy Fundraising Event: (past) 16 August 2017 at the Bobcat Cafe.

B. Katie reported that September was supposed to be our Annual Meeting night, primarily for election of officers. This will be rescheduled for our November meeting.

IX. Events

A. Tuesday, 19 September 2017: Planning Commission meeting with Sacha Pealer of the Rivers Program of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to discuss river corridor planning.

B. September 23, 2017: Conservation into the Future Summit to be held at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro, Vermont; convened by the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions.

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 9 November 2017 (corrected).

A. Matt Witten of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative to update BCC regarding water quality in the New Haven River watershed.

IX. Upcoming events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 2017.

XI. Adjournment

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