

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
12 OCTOBER 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); Jim Stapleton (JS).

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
No public present.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 14 September 2017
RB moved that the minutes of 14 September 2017 be approved; JS seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence.
E-mails related to items listed below.
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant; sites for stormwater projects.
Per e-mail correspondence between Steve Libby and Pete Diminico, Steve had already met with his engineer regarding the three candidates whom Pete had contacted. The three candidates are:
 - Bob Bernstein;
 - Nate Bouvier; and,
 - Melissa Deas.Steve related that he will contact them next week.
 - B. Beaver Meadows wetland classification: follow-up discussion.
No new information; remove from agenda.
 - C. Trails Around Bristol (formerly itemized as Addison County Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan): discussion regarding biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol. Now known as the Bristol Trail Network, sponsored by the Bristol Recreation Department; no further information.
 - D. South Street Historical Walk: update.
Kristen met with Reg Dearborn of the Bristol Historical Society (BHS) and Sandra Murphy to discuss approaches to the informational kiosk. Sandra will develop different hierarchical levels to describe the history of the site.

The amount of money raised to support the trail and kiosk will in large part determine the size and scope of the kiosk. Karyn Norwood, a Social Studies teacher at Mt. Abe, is preparing a community grant application for up to \$750. Ms. Norwood is proposing the development of an online interpretive product for the historic Bristol Manufacturing Company site. The cellphone app would be produced by her students, and would allow a person to access information from their phone while visiting the site.

Kristen prepared a draft letter of support from the Conservation Commission for Ms. Norwood to use in her grant application, which has to be submitted by October 15, 2017. KR moved, and JS seconded, that the Bristol Conservation Commission approve Kristen Underwood's letter for the 5-Town Friends of the Arts grant application. Approved by all.

Kristen also mentioned that Kevin Hanson, a local resident and owner of Hogsback Brewery, will be contributing funds from his sale of Coffin Factory India Pale Ale (IPA). Kristen and Porter Knight had tied "toe tags" around the necks of 300 bottles of IPA, to indicate a contribution to the interpretive trail fund. Mr. Hanson is also contributing a bench to be placed at the site.

- E. **Town of Bristol Resources: Disseminating information about the natural and cultural resources of Bristol.**
CORE has developed a brochure to publicize interesting highlights of the Bristol area, and is available for distribution. They will also be working on a comparable style brochure to describe local hiking trails in the area.
- F. **Conservation Commission Membership: On-going discussion of special interests of commissioners.**
No discussion at this time.
- G. **River Corridor Protection: Discussion of coordination with the Planning Commission regarding river corridor planning.**
According to Kristen, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, the Planning Commission Chair, will have a preliminary discussion with the Planning Commission on Oct. 17th regarding river corridor planning. Sasha Pealer from the Rivers Program at Vermont Agency of Natural Resources will be making a presentation at the Planning meeting on Nov. 20th.
Kristen and Pete will be attending the Oct. 20th meeting. All are welcome to attend.
- H. **Paul Fuller site: Control of Japanese Knotweed; update.**
Kristen did a tally of hours worked at the site for Lydia Menendez of the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) to support future funding requests.
- I. **Saunders River Access: Coordination regarding maintenance, spring transplanting and watering tree saplings; update.**
Nothing at present.
- J. **New Haven River, Bartlett Falls: Discussion regarding Addison County River Watch Collaborative to install signpost providing information on water quality.**

There was some water quality information posted, but a new posting location has to be established for next spring. Historical records exist, although they are not readily available (Pete has records from 1993 on).

- K. Vermont Agency of Natural Resources website BioFinder: Follow-up discussion on use of software (<http://biofinder.vermont.gov>).

Now that the Commission is familiar with the website, the item can be removed from the agenda.

- L. Eagle Park: On-going maintenance discussion; update.

The river access is in good condition, although the picnic table in the field area could be repaired.

- M. Notch Road clean-up: Update.

Nothing to report.

- N. Roleau (formerly Farr) Farm: Vermont Land Trust wild parsnip control.

Remove from agenda.

VII. New Business

- A. Organizational meeting and election of officers.

After discussion among the Commissioners, given Katie's position as Clerk since the Commission was created in 2003, Jim volunteered to take over the responsibilities of Clerk for one year. Kristen was willing to take on the role the subsequent year, with others to take on the role in subsequent years. This will start in March, after Jim gets back from a trip away.

KU moved that Ken Johnson remain as Chair, Pete Diminico as Vice-Chair, and Katie Reilley as Clerk (until March); JS seconded; approved by all.

- B. Summary of "Conservation into the Future", convened by the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions on September 23, 2017.

Randy, Jim and Richard attended the conference, which drew a fairly large crowd. Pete encouraged more communication among conservation commissions throughout the state.

Randy was concerned that there was no discussion about how dogs should be controlled on trails, and we should be prepared for that discussion as we move forward with trail development. He also mentioned Bridget Butler's interest in field locating animal road crossings.

Of additional interest to Randy was the Conservation into the Future discussion (Bio-Finder & the Future of Vermont's Landscape) in which Jens Hilke talked of the brainstorming process in which Commissioners looked more thoroughly into their interests and making a commitment to work towards that end. He also provides technical assistance to municipalities and regional commissions related to land use planning for wildlife and wildlife habitat management. Randy suggested putting this possible training session on an upcoming agenda.

VIII. Other

The Town Administrator's Report of October 5, 2017 included an item about the completion of Phoenix King's Eagle Scout Project at Sycamore Park. Phoenix was to build three picnic tables, a park bench, and a river access sign. Phoenix had originally contacted the Conservation Commission, but did not get back to the Commission with the details of his project.

IX. Upcoming events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 9 November 2017.

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

XI. Adjournment

RB moved that the meeting be adjourned; JS seconded; approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.