

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
14 DECEMBER 2017
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ken Johnson (KJ), Chair; Pete Diminico (PD) Vice-Chair; Katie Reilly (KR), Clerk; Dave Henderson (DH); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD); Richard Butz (RB); Carolyn Dash (CB); 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 9 November 2017
JS moved that the minutes of 9 November 2017 be approved; RD 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 and meetings with possible project participants. Pete had not heard recently from Steve Libby. He will follow up on communicating with Steve, as Pete hopes to get the projects completed in 2018.
 - 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. Trails Around Bristol is now known as Bristol Trail Network. Carolyn had talked with Porter Knight and Bristol CORE staff regarding advertising publications for the Town. An additional brochure is being developed. Carolyn also had questions about how to present the Saunders River Access in the brochures that are developed, and on the website. There was general discussion as to the status of the property. At this time, there is not a strong effort to advertise the space, in agreement with the Interim Management Plan which is due for review in 2018. The property is used by the public primarily for fishing during season, but protection and conservation of the riparian habitat is of primary concern. The Agency of Transportation would need to be contacted regarding right-of-way issues, such as signage and road access.
 - C. South Street Historical Walk: update.
Kristen will talk with Ian Albinson of Bristol CORE to discuss obtaining drone footage of the historical site during leaf-off. This would be helpful in evaluating the site.
 - D. Town of Bristol Resources: Disseminating information about the natural and cultural resources of Bristol.

Carolyn informed the Commission that the winter season is not the best time to hike in Memorial Park. She will investigate further in better weather and better conditions.

- E. Conservation Commission Membership: on-going discussion of special interests of commissioners; discuss possible training session with Jens Hilke regarding Strategic Planning workshop.

Randy had sent the information from Jens Hilke regarding the Strategic Planning workshop. Katie was concerned that the worksheets Jens had sent Randy were quite complicated and time consuming. The consensus of the Commission was for Randy to find out if Jens can come and explain his workshops, and if he could arrange the process to suit Bristol's needs.

- F. River Corridor Protection: discussion of coordination with the Planning Commission regarding river corridor planning; discussion of 21 November 2017 meeting.

Several Commissioners had attended the Planning Commission meeting, and the overall impression was that the Planning Commission is receptive to the concepts reviewed during the presentation by Dave Rosa of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Dave is now the Floodplain Manager for the Bristol area.

Several of the Conservation Commissioners will attend the Dec. 19 meeting of the Planning Commission.

- G. New Haven River Watershed: continued discussion regarding Addison County River Watch Collaborative information on water quality and the on-going sampling; possible meeting with New Haven Conservation Commission.

There was considerable discussion as to the role of the Bristol Conservation Commission and the path to be followed in addressing what appear to be problem pollution areas in Bristol and New Haven. The Commission wants to be proactive in addressing potentially polluted runoff, and working with the New Haven Conservation Commission would be a step in the right direction. Richard and Kristen will discuss the River Watch Collaborative about having Matt Witten meet with the New Haven Commission.

- H. All Hazards Mitigation Plan: Addison County Regional Planning Commission requesting update; discuss BCC involvement.

Kristen attended a meeting on Dec. 5, 2017 regarding the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. The group reviewed and prioritized the potential hazards in the area. The list of most significant included:

- erosion and flooding
- landslide/rockslide, and
- earthquakes.

Meetings will continue.

VII. New Business

- A. Annual Report: due January 9, 2018 per notification by Town Administrator.

a. Ken and Katie will work on this.

- B. Proposed amendment to Bristol Conservation Commission By-Laws: proposed change of Annual Meeting date; to be moved to the April Conservation Commission meeting. Katie explained that the by-laws would need to be amended to change the annual meeting month. This is necessary to coordinate the election of officers with any new appointments that might occur at the time of the Town Meeting day.

JS moved, and RB seconded, to change the Annual Meeting from September to the April meeting. Katie will set up the proper correspondence required.

VIII. Other

- A. Workshops/public presentations with Bridget Butler <https://www.birddiva.com/what-i-do/>
Randy and Katie discussed bringing Bridget Butler to Bristol to do a public presentation, along the lines of the previous presentations by Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences. Randy will contact Bridget as to her availability and possible programs.
- IX. Events
 - A. Tuesday, 21 November 2017: Planning Commission meeting at 7:00, with Sacha Pealer to discuss river corridor planning.
- X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 11 January 2017.
- XI. Adjournment
 - PD moved that the meeting be adjourned; JS seconded; approved by all.
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.