

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
HELD AT HOLLEY HALL
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 11 JANUARY 2018**

Members Attending: Ken Johnson (KJ), Pete Diminico (PD), Randy Durand (RD), Dave Henderson (DH), Carolyn Dash (CD), Kristen Underwood (KU)

Public Attending: Porter Knight

I. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM.

II. Public comment period.

No public present, other than Porter Knight, who addressed the Commission under item VI.A.

III. Addition of items to the agenda.

No items to add.

IV. Approval of minutes of 14 December 2017.

Motion to approve by PD; seconded by KJ. Unanimously approved.

V. Correspondence.

E-mails related to items listed below.

VI. Old Business

A. Bristol Trail Network (formerly itemized as Trails Around Bristol): Porter Knight to be present to discuss biking and hiking trails in the Town of Bristol; status of Saunders River Access.

Porter Knight reviewed three project proposals of the Bristol Trail Network (BTN) that are currently underway:

1. "River Bend Trail" - is a proposed 0.6-mile trail that would connect the Bristol Manufacturing Co. site on the north side of South Street, along the east side of the river, and up the slope to the proposed business park behind the new Fire Station. She has spoken to and received preliminary approval from 7 of the 8 landowners, and is working to connect with the 8th out-of-town landowner. The Bristol Recreation Club (a 501c3 nonprofit org that serves as fiscal agent for the BTN) is applying to Vermont Forest Parks and Recreation for a grant to fund development of the trail, including services of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. The grant requires a 20% local match, and Porter inquired if the BCC might consider making a request to the Selectboard for allocation of funds from the Bristol Conservation Reserve Fund. KU inquired whether matching funds could also be in the form of in-kind services,

- including volunteer labor during the construction of the trail. PK will inquire. The grant application is due on Feb. 1. KU will draft a support letter for the trail from the Bristol CC.
2. A future BTN segment is envisioned to connect the Prayer Rock to the Bristol Manuf. Co. site via an existing angler's trail that follows the north bank of the New Haven River through the historic Drake-Smith property. Porter will be reaching out to landowners over the coming year.
 3. In the short term, BTN is focusing on trail segments in the village, but over the long term envisions possible spurs connecting the village to existing town parks – such as a southern spur connecting the village to Sycamore Park via the Saunders River Access site. Trail length and placement would be contingent upon landowner willingness.
- B. 1. South Street Historical Walk: update.
KU reported that the town fund now has \$875.24. Sandra Murphy has had some delays in producing a draft layout of the historic interpretive sign for Bristol Manufacturing Co., due to family health issues.
2. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update on status of Vermont Community Fund Grant; sites for stormwater projects and meetings with possible project participants. PD noted that he has not had a recent update from Steve Libby, Vermont River Conservancy.
- C. Town of Bristol Resources: Disseminating information about the natural and cultural resources of Bristol.
CD has been working on a trail brochure with Ian Albinson from Bristol CORE and expects to have draft material to share at the next meeting.
- D. Conservation Commission Membership: on-going discussion of special interests of commissioners; discuss possible training session with Jens Hilke regarding Strategic Planning workshop.
RD has communicated with Jens Hilke, VFW, and determined that a shorter-duration workshop during a regularly-scheduled BCC meeting would be possible – and one which is customized to the project ideas already identified and prioritized by the BCC. Jen's colleague, Monica Przybrehart, will likely lead the workshop. RD will coordinate with Monica and suggest the date of our scheduled March 8 meeting, from 6:30 to 8 PM.
- E. River Corridor Protection: discussion of coordination with the Planning Commission regarding river corridor planning; discussion of 19 December 2017 meeting.
KU viewed the Dec 19 Planning Commission meeting via Neat TV. Discussions during that PC meeting indicated that the 2017 Bristol Town Plan will be undergoing a review by the ACRPC for elements required under state statute including a flood resiliency plan.
- F. 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.

KU reported that during a meeting of the ACRWC on Jan 10, RB and KU (members of the ACRWC Board) communicated that BCC would like the ACRWC to share water quality information from the Little Otter Creek and New Haven River watersheds with the New Haven Conservation Commission (similar presentation as was provided to the BCC on November 9). The ACRWC is presently applying for funding that would support time of its Coordinator, Matt Witten, to present at a future “water quality chat”. KU also reported that Laura Farrell (Monkton CC) and Heidi Willis (Salisbury CC) are in discussions to possibly coordinate a meeting of Addison County CCs for some date later in the year. Such a county-wide meet up would also be a possible venue for presentations of water quality monitoring results from Addison County rivers.

- G. All Hazards Mitigation Plan: Addison County Regional Planning Commission requesting update; discussion of on-going meetings.

KU reported that no new meetings of the All Hazards committee have occurred since the previous meeting on Dec 5.

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

KR and KJ prepared the annual report and it was submitted to Valerie Capels prior to the deadline.

- I. Proposed amendment to Bristol Conservation Commission By-Laws: proposed change of Annual Meeting date; to be moved to the April Conservation Commission meeting. DH made a motion that the Bristol Conservation Commission By-Laws be amended to reflect that the Annual Meeting date occur in April of each year. Motion was seconded by KJ. Unanimously approved.

- J. Workshops/public presentations with Bridget Butler <https://www.birddiva.com/what-i-do/> RD provided program and cost information for two speaker options, including Bridget Butler (birddiva.com) and Sue Morse (Keeping Track). After discussion, the members decided to pursue presentations by both speakers, with a spring date for Sue Morse (involving cats/cougars) and a fall or later date for Bridget Butler. RD will continue coordinating and will seek co-sponsorship from Bristol Rec Dept to defray the costs. KU will ask The Watershed Center if they would like to co-sponsor.

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Other

IX. Events

X. Next Meeting Schedule: Thursday, 8 February 2018.

XI. Adjournment

DH made a motion to adjourn; KU seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by KU.