

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – Draft

March 21, 2018

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Julie Hackbarth, Kim Sudol (7:30-8:10), Mary Trerice, and Jan Waterman

Sarah convened the meeting at 7:20.

Agenda reviewed and adjusted.

Minutes: November (corrected), December and January minutes approved. In February, only Sarah came to the meeting, so there was no meeting.

WNRCD: Jan reported that we were contacted by the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, asking if we would be willing to serve as “Conservation Stewards.” She was told that this would entail only re-posting conservation-related notices from them to our local Front Porch Forum. Consensus was that this would be ok – and Jan’s willing to do the posting. They also sent a request for input from us, to help inform their planning process. We discussed each of the questions they asked; Jan will relay the information to them.

Current use/education/outreach: Sarah and Kim reviewed notes from their meeting about ongoing development of this long term strategy. Next, Sarah will compile a list of residents with street trees on their property and Kim will draft a letter for them. The letter will inform people about the program, resources available to them, etc. Kim also reported on a meeting she attended, presented by the Central VT Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC), in which information was presented about a mapping resource they offer which we may find useful.

Tree and Shrub Sale: Sarah reminded us: Brochures are out; deadline for ordering is April 6th; orders will be assembled the afternoon of Friday April 27th at Bram’s barn; pick up will be Saturday morning April 28th, 9:-11:00 at Mill Park, as usual. Marshfield has taken the lead this year.

Act 171: Monica Przyperhart of CVRPC. will meet with us and Plainfield Planning Commissioners on Monday April 2nd, a regular meeting night for the planners, to help us understand the impacts this new law will have on our town plan and zoning. Some of our members have already watched a webinar relating to Act 171. Julie noted that the webinar is now available on YouTube, and recommends that we all review it before the April 2 workshop, as this issue involves a lot of information to absorb and consider. The meeting will take place at the Firehouse.

Green Up: Becky asked if we had any suggestions for changing our approach to Green Up this year. We think it's working fine the way it is. She's waiting to hear if Delia is willing to once again do media outreach for the event. Kim offered to help.

Lecture: The next joint presentation of the Plainfield and Marshfield Conservation Commissions and Libraries will be on May 3rd, 6:30 - 8: pm at the Opera House. Tom Wessels will address "Self-organization, Co-evolution, Resiliency and Stability." The talk will focus on how ecosystems co-evolve to generate the incredible biodiversity we see in nature, and how these relationships can inform the creation of sustainable human systems.

Mail review: We received the AVCC annual report and request for dues renewal; Sarah will take care of that. Also, the Vermont Land Trust sent an announcement about our new Regional Stewardship Manager, David McMath – 262-1242, david@vlt.org.

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

Act 171 workshop Monday April 2, 7 pm at the Firehouse.

Next regular meeting Wednesday April 21st, 7:15 p.m. in the meeting room at the municipal building, as usual.

Submitted by Jan Waterman
Secretary and co-chair