

Conservation Commission

Meeting 01/18/2017 Minutes

prepared by Brad Salzmann

Present: Members: Brad Salzmann, Joshua (Bushrod) Powers, Mike Bald,
 Guests: Hoyt Bingham, David Barker
 Representatives of the South Royalton Schools and Vermont Law School
 were invited. We will continue to invite them to participate.

Meeting called to Order at 7:06

Welcome and Introductions Collection of Contact Info.

Minutes from Jan. 19, 2016 meeting - Approved. There was some discussion about who should take notes and prepare the minutes. For this meeting, it was agreed Brad would do that and we can discuss this further at the next meeting. Mike Bald has done this in the past.

Conservation Commission Roles and Responsibilities:

Descriptions are available from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. The paragraph submitted for the Town Report is a combination of both. (The purposes of the Conservation Commission are to assist the Community of Royalton to assess, protect, and enhance its natural resources. Additionally, we may inventory town lands in which the public has an interest, including land with a historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural, or archeologic value.)

A motion was made and carried to concentrate on the Crawford Property (behind Town Offices), the Sarnoff property (on Rt. 107), and the FEMA buyout properties near the Fox Stand bridge. We will try to coordinate with the Planning Commission and the White River Partnership on the Crawford property and the FEMA buy out properties, respectively.

Membership: Current membership consists of: Brad Salzmann (chair), Joshua (Bushrod) Powers, Mike Bald, and Alan Turner. Hoyt Bingham and David Barker, both Royalton residents, expressed an interest in joining. A motion was made and carried to submit their names to the Selectboard for appointment.

Budget: Currently no budget; a \$200 request was submitted and approved by the Selectboard into their draft budget, to be discussed at Town Meeting. AVCC

membership is \$50/year, if we decide to join. Map-making, brochures, conference expenses, etc could also come out of our budget. Project expenses would probably have to be obtained from the Selectboard, donations, fundraising, and/or grants.

Bylaws: Currently the CC has no bylaws, and is supposed to, according to Rose Hemond. Brad prepared a draft which was handed out for review and discussion at the next meeting. It was noted that some organizations have bylaws and policies. Perhaps some of the bylaws could be policies instead; that can be discussed in the future. In general, policies are easier to change than bylaws.

Additional Business: Map making, Social media, and Grant writing are skills that could be useful for the Conservation Commission in the future. The South Royalton Junior and Senior High School and the Vermont Law School may have staff or students able and willing to assist with these kinds of projects. Mary Waterman, of the South Royalton Schools, is an experienced grant writer.

Next Meeting date/time: Monthly meetings, the 2nd Monday of each month, at 6:30 was agreed as the best day/time for this group. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, Feb. 13, 2017 at 6:30 at the Town Offices Meeting Room (pending availability).

Adjourn 8:16