

## Conservation Commission

### Meeting 02/13/2017 Minutes

prepared by Brad Salzmann

Present: Members: Brad Salzmann, Joshua (Bushrod) Powers, Mike Bald,  
Guests: Hoyt Bingham, David Barker, Mary Russ  
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 6:31

Welcome and Introductions Mary Russ of the White River Partnership introduced and thanked for hosting the meeting and agreeing to explain the FEMA Buy-Out Properties plans and updates.

Minutes from Jan. 18, 2017 meeting - Approved as (typo) corrected.

Membership: Current membership consists of: Brad Salzmann (chair), Joshua (Bushrod) Powers, Mike Bald, and Alan Turner. Hoyt Bingham and David Barker have both provided a letter of interest to the Selectboard. The next scheduled Selectboard meeting is tomorrow (Feb. 14) night. According to Bushrod, their appointments are on the agenda.

Bylaws: Bylaws discussion tabled until the next meeting in the interest of time for the FEMA Buy-out properties discussion. Suggested edits, to be discussed, have been provided by David Barker and Mike Bald.

FEMA Buy-Out Properties-Update Mary Russ, of the White River Partnership, provided a nice informational update of the plans and timeline for what is being called "Foxville Parks". These are the two properties near the Fox Stand Bridge, that were destroyed by Tropical Storm Irene and ultimately declared FEMA Buy-Out properties. The "Royalton Hill Picnic Area" is on the east side of the river, across the road from the Fox Stand Fish and Wildlife parking/recreation area. The "Gillman River Access Area" is on the west side of the river on Gillman Road. These two will be developed into recreation areas based on the restrictions required by FEMA. There are two other FEMA Buy-Out properties in Royalton which will not be developed. One is the former Stoddard property on Bridge Street and the other is across from Avery Rocks on Rt. 14. Briefly, once fair market value is established, FEMA provides 90% of the funds and the town provides the other 10%. Volunteer hours are calculated at \$24/hour and can be

used to contribute to the 10%. These properties are then owned by the town and may never have permanent structures erected. In 2014, a HUD grant was obtained to develop plans for Foxville Park. Dubois and King completed the plans in August 2016 and the contractor bids will go out as soon as the wetland delineation is done. Construction should start in the spring and must be done by June 30. The Roylton Hill Picnic Area will have a small parking lot and picnic area. The Gillman River Access will also have a small parking lot and a boat access area and (for now) a gravel beach. A river access easement has been provided by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The gravel for the parking areas will be provided by the town and the town will do the mowing as well.

Motion made by Mike Bald and seconded by Bushrod Powers that “the Conservation Commission expresses a desire to be a partner in on-going oversight and stewardship of the 4 FEMA Buy-Out properties in Roylton.” Motion approved unanimously.

The Conservation Commission also recommends Invasive Species information signage at the properties, as well as boat washing recommendations at all White River boat access areas.

Green-up Day Green-up Day is May 6. The Recreation Committee is organizing it again this year. Brad will check with Keri Rogers on how the Conservation Commission might be able to participate.

Additional Business: Vermont’s Pollinator Protection Committee presented their final recommendations to the state legislature and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and is circulating a petition to support these and expanded recommendations regarding pesticide use in the state.

Next Meeting date/time: The Town Offices Meeting Room is not available the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Monday nights of the month. Brad will double check on meeting room availability, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 pm is agreeable to all for the regularly scheduled meetings. Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:30 at the Town Offices Meeting Room (pending availability).

Adjourn 7:34