

Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 4/17/17

Members Present: Brad Salzmann, Hoyt Bingham, David Barker, Mike Bald

Members Absent: Alan Turner, Bushrod Powers

Meeting called to order @ 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Minutes of 3/20/17: Approved as submitted.

We will put draft meeting minutes on the town website within a few days of the meeting. They will be updated after approved. Brad or Hoyt will talk with Rose to double check about procedure.

Hoyt offered and was accepted as clerk for the Conservation Commission.

Events we have discussed:

- VLS Earth Day Project, April 22 in S. Royalton
- DC Climate march, VT, April 29, VT Sierra Club
- CRO's and ARC Summit, April 29, Norwich University, Northfield, VT
- VT Arbor Day conference, May 4, Montpelier, VT

Opportunities for the Conservation Commission:

- Mapping Your Community's Conservation Resources webinar, April 25 @ 12:30pm, presented by VT Fish and Wildlife.
- Grant opportunity: Town Forest Recreation Planning Community Assistance Program. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded to each of eight Vermont. These funds are used to hire a team of consultants to work with each town to develop a plan for the town forest use. Deadline for application is 6/1/17. Towns will be notified by August 8, 2017 of the application outcome.
 - Planning:
 - David Barker will take leadership of grant
 - Brad will advise planning commission we are interested and beginning process
 - Request letter of support from Selectboard
 - Contact TRORC for help on the application
 - Run application by Planning Commission during their May meeting

Green Up Day, May 6: Kerri Rogers is spearheading this event.

As requested, the Conservation Commission has been unappointed as the coordinating agency for Green Up Day.

Mike Bald, as a private citizen, advised White River Partnership and the Selectboard that Japanese Knotweed spread by Irene is now established and entering rapid expansion phase from his expertise. Now that the Knotweed has been well established it is time to consider what to do with it. The Conservation Commission heard from Mike Bald, understanding that the Japanese Knotweed is becoming a big problem along the riverbanks. This can create safety hazards and infrastructure damage. ***The commission has accepted Mike Bald's input and advises the town to think about future management work, at least by determining which areas in town are most important.*** Brad will write a short letter to the Selectboard regarding the Japanese knotweed problem.

Bylaws: Work on the bylaws continued focusing on details regarding commission membership. Brad will integrate details into the draft bylaws. We will continue to review our bylaws at the May meeting.

Next meeting: May 15, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office meeting room.

Adjourn 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hoyt Bingham