

Royalton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2019

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Welcome/Introductions: Brad Salzman, Tico Wolff, David Barker

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from November and December meetings not available

Events: List of upcoming events was sent out to members and VLS liaisons by email. Of interest is the NOFA (Northeast Organic Farmers Association) conference in February in Burlington; Mike is presenting a workshop Feb. 17

Goals and Interests Review: We reviewed the discussion of our Goals and Interests from the December meeting, reaffirming that we will plan to support Green-up Day and White River Clean-ups but not take over the lead for either. Kerri Rogers will lead Green-up Day and Mary Russ, of the White River Partnership will lead the river clean-up events.

We recommend the Crawford Property be officially called the "Crawford Parcel". Tico will contact AJ Follensbee to see how he is coming along with the land management plan. There was a brief discussion about 2 of the suggestions from the Planning Commission for what they are calling the Crawford Lot. One, they suggest a Forestry Plan should be done first, as part of a long term plan; we agree. Two, they stated the CC recommended placing (part of) the lot in the land trust and that student groups from the High School and VLS who could likely build and maintain a trail system. None of us present recall any such discussion with the Planning Commission or Selectboard. Brad has retyped most of the Planning Commission options review and will send it to all members in the near future.

Presuming we continue to build and enhance trails on the Sarnoff Lot, will plan on asking the town, later in the year, to plow the parking area in the winter.

New Business:

BIOFINDER Thank you Tico for setting up the BIOFINDER workshop with Jens Wilke on Jan. 16. Attended by Tico, David, Hoyt, Ian, Brad, and Annette Petrucelli. We found it very useful and a valuable tool to help us move forward on inventorying and mapping priority areas in and around Royalton. It should help us as we work with the Planning Commission on rewriting the Town Plan and develop a Conservation Design. Jens recommended some sort of restrictions on development in Royalton, if not zoning, then some other type of restrictions to protect priority areas. Tico will summarize the workshop for us. Jens gave us a paper map of the Royalton area with the conservation priority and high priority areas highlighted. Brad will mount the map and we will enhance it with more detail to display and work with.

Town Plan As far as we know, the Planning Commission is rewriting the Town Plan this year to present for 2020. We have agreed to provide input on matters of conservation. Brad will contact the PC (Stuart Levasser) to try to get a schedule of their

discussions. Tico will look at other Town Plans on the TRORC web site to get some ideas, and Brad will contact TRORC for potential assistance.

Trail Restrictions We have received numerous responses from other Vermont towns and preserves regarding trail restrictions. There are advantages and disadvantages to trail use restrictions and we should consider whether we want to, or need to, attempt any restrictions, at least early on. We did develop a trail restriction draft that we can work from. One of the topics that came from these replies was conservation funding. Some towns have a separate Conservation Fund, mostly either a separate account, or line item on the town budget, for conservation uses. Too late for this year's Town Meeting, but something we should consider for next year.

Officers According to the bylaws we were supposed to elect CC officers in October, the first meeting after the beginning of the fiscal year. Motion made by Tico and seconded by David to re-elect the current officers; Brad as Chair, Hoyt as Clerk, and Bushrod as Treasurer. Motion unanimously passed with Brad abstaining.

Old Business:

Recommendations to town SB regarding managing invasive plants		
AVCC Tiny Grant	Application due in April	No action taken
CC Web site / Facebook page / email address		No action taken
Banner	2' X 3' vinyl banner with grommets, currently stored at Brad's house. Flag would be about \$150 so was not ordered.	
Sarnoff Parcel	see above	
Crawford Parcel	see above	
Emerald Ash Borer	Recommendations	No action taken
Energy Plan – the Selectboard requested the RCC to help create this plan.		

Next meeting Date: February 18, 2019 6:30 pm Town Offices

Adjourn 7:35 pm