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## Rockingham Conservation Commission

MONDAY January 8th 2024

### MINUTES

Present: Peter Bergstrom, Mike Ghia, Alex Barrett, Hayden Smith, Jeff Bryan, Christine Armiger  
Absent: Laurel Green  
Guests: None

Called to order at 7:03 PM.

1. Approve Minutes of December—moved Alex, Hayden second, passed.  
Alteration to the Agenda and Guests Introductions -- none
2. Recruitment, Logistics, Networking and Communications  
Expiring Terms up for renewal: Peter Bergstrom and Laurel Green. Peter will send a note to Peter Golec and copy Scott Pickup, Betsy Thurston and Meghan to ask to be re-appointed for a 4-year term. Mike will ask Laurel if she wants to continue.
3. Sustainable Rockingham  
Hazard Mitigation Plan Action Steps [RCC & Hazard Mitigation Tasks 2022-2027](#)  
Alex suggested checking the FEMA buyout parcel near Ski Bowl Rd in the spring to see how the trees we planted in 2016 are doing, and we could hold a workshop there about how to plant trees where there is knotweed. Peter will work with him on the workshop.
4. Conservation Commission coordination with Planning Commission -- no update
6. Energy Committee Report  
Town Enhanced Energy Plan and Mapping Preferred Solar Locations—no action  
Other Committee Activities: main activity for 2024, other than Window Dressers, will be organizing a series of “Home Energy Forum” sessions on various topics, with a presentation by an expert and Q&A. Planned topics include heat pumps, weatherization (professional & DIY), moisture management, etc.
7. Herrick’s Cove, Williams River, Saxtons River and CT River  
Outstanding Resource Waters Designations: we decided to focus on 2 of the 3 areas we considered before, dropping the proposed Island/Great Falls area. The two we are working on are called “Williams River Scenic Area” (from the Brockways Mills Gorge & Sokoki Falls

downriver to a swimming area off 103 behind the truck stop), and “Herrick’s and Roundys Coves” off Missing Link Rd, which includes the Missing Link Wildlife Management Area.

Hydro-dam FERC Relicensing Process-possible progress, Margo Ghia, WRC will ask Kathy Urffer about making a presentation to local CC’s about where we are in the process.

Herrick’s Cove Wildlife Festival Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>—Marie Caduto is looking for volunteers.

8. Walk Bike Committee and other Rockingham Trail Initiatives Peter and Gary Fox reviewed the capability summaries from the six contractors that are pre-qualified by the state to work on TAP grants; we will pick one to ask them for a detailed proposal, which we can then accept, or ask another contractor for a proposal.

9. Other Activities Natural Resources

Public Lands in Rockingham—map is almost done, PC has taken over the task of finalizing maps.

Green Up Day Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> (including Rivers)—clean up at Herricks Cove? Along the Saxtons River? Margo is looking for a co-coordinator—Christine will talk to her. We should ID areas that need attention. We also discussed helping with the “Source to Sea” cleanup in September, organized by CRC, but not clear who pays for trash disposal for that.

<https://www.bullcreekcommonlands.org/> –A new land trust in Athens area, one parcel has a new hiking trail

VT Conservation Strategy <https://www.vhcb.org/our-programs/VCSI> -- Hayden said they have hired consultants to reach out to partners to decide how to roll out this plan.

Christine would like to talk about building bat boxes at our next meeting.

11. Confirm NEXT MEETING Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

**Adjourn –moved by Christine, 8:08 PM.**

Minutes by Peter Bergstrom, Clerk, 1-9-24