

Town of Rockingham
Town Hall, 7 Square
PO Box 370
Bellows Falls, VT 05101
Voice: (802) 463-3964 Fax: (802) 463-1228
Website: rockbf.org

RCC MINUTES February 17, 2014

Attending:

The meeting began at 7:04 with Guy Payne, Rick Holloway, Tom Herson, Alan Fowler, Gary Fox, Fred Bennett, and Mike Ghia present. Paul Wilson was absent. Peter Bergstrom was a Guest

Minutes were unanimously approved

Recruitment and nominations

Peter Bergstrom sent a letter to Mike requesting appointment to the Commission. Mike and Tom up for a 3 year term. Both will request to serve again. Guy is up as Energy Coordinator and will request reappointment.

Logistics

Change of April meeting date to April 21st

Website: Fred drew up schematics and will bring them to the RCC next meeting; Will work together with Guy and get feedback from the entire group on content.

Natural Resources

Windham County Conservation Commissions meeting on March 13th in Putney 6-8:30. Tom will check if he's available.

Herricks's Cove

Wildlife Festival: Alan will try to be the liaison with the planning committee

Fishline project: Alma will get back to us

Snow Shoe Hike has been cancelled.

Naming of local water bodies. Peter Bergstrom spoke with Ryan Knox of ANR who does not have much experience with naming, but has done a lot of mapping. He'll try and make map copies available for Herrick's Cove Festival. Main areas are in the Village of Saxtons River and those that drain into the Williams River. The Commission will develop a project description for the Selectboard to ask for their approval, and will include the why and the how. Peter explained the "Topo" map had names but did not make it onto the Federal Register. This should not be a problem to fix. It included 4 brooks and 1 cove.

FEMA House Removal: Nothing new to report. Town has not decided what to do with the land along the Saxtons River. Reparation and buffer work has not been determined. Mike will contact Tom MacPhee about the town's plans and inform him that the Commission would like to be involved with any planning.

Northern Woodlands Magazine: Mike brought to everyone's attention an article about a Regional Conservation Partnership in Northern VT and Quebec; they want to make sure the border does not become an arbitrary ecosystem break. Article is about the formation of Conservation Commissions in VT Towns on the border, and coordination in the form of regional conservation partnerships with groups in Quebec for this larger conservation effort.

-Staying Connected Initiative -Northern CC's working w/ Canadian groups:

<http://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/landscape>

Energy Committee

The committee meeting was scheduled last week and postponed due to the snow storm. Guy presented a **Residential Energy Code Survey** – Guy will table at Town Meeting and would like to enter folks in a raffle for 2 LED lights if they fill out the survey; The Energy Code requires that any time there is an addition or work on a residence– contractor must fill out a certificate – survey explores how much people know about this.

Gary moves to table at Town Meeting and present this survey as presented; Fred Bennett seconds;

There was discussion on adjusting a couple of questions on the draft survey.

Friendly amendment from Mike – to accept revised edition of survey

Motion carries – unanimous

Solarize Discussion –Efforts taking place around the State where a group of home owners or group within a town, with or without town official involvement, agree to install solar panels at the same time to get benefit of volume – economies of scale by the group participation. Might be something that could be pursued in Rockingham.

Right now solar production is way more incentivized than weatherization – the education on weatherization needs to happen;

Streetlight update: all GMP owned lights have been changed to LED at this point – Mike has to meet Deb regarding compare inventories, rectify the billing.

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Station** BFDDA is exploring a couple of parking spaces at the Waypoint dedicated to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and putting a proposal together with purpose and need and budget for the acquisition and install

Quarterly Energy Roundtable – Monday February

Announcements

Affordable Housing and Open Space Conservation – VT Housing Conservation Board – funding for conservation Legislative Day next week in Montpelier

Next Meeting: Monday, March 10 th

April meeting is changed to April 21st

Adjourn 8:30 pm