



Town of Rockingham
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Rockingham Conservation Commission

MONDAY, June 8th, 2015

7:00 pm

3rd Floor Meeting Room Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 7:12. Present: Alan Fowler, Rick Holloway, Mike Ghia, Devin Smith, and Peter Bergstrom; Absent: Paul Wilson, Guy Payne, Fred Bennett, and Tom Hernon.
Guests: Amy Howlett.

1. Approve Minutes of May Meeting: Devin moved, Peter second. Passed.
Alteration to the Agenda and Guests Introductions

We added the bylaws amendment, and added Energy section of town plan.

2. Recruitment and Logistics

Website updates (Alan): Alan had no report; Fred was working on it.

Mail Chimp: **Peter and Mike will meet so Peter can learn how to use Mail Chimp.**

Bylaws: We need to approve the proposed amendment to make meeting notice requirements agree with the Open Meetings law. The current bylaw needs to be revised to reflect holding our annual meeting in April (already approved); **Peter will do this and recirculate.** We can approve this at our July meeting. The proposed amendment is:

PROPOSED By-Law Amendment to "Section 8: Meeting Notice":

Change the regular meeting notification requirement from 24 hours notice to 48 hours notice and otherwise revise the posting locations to comply with the revised VT Public Meeting Law. Specifically, the revised section would read:

"... the agenda of each regular meeting of the Commission shall be posted in or near the municipal office and in at least two (2) other designated public places in the municipality and delivered to each member of the Commission at least 48 hours before the meeting. For special meetings of the Commission, the time, place and purpose of the meeting shall be publicly announced by posting a notice of the meeting and agenda in or near the municipal office and in at least two (2) other designated public places in the municipality, and delivered to each member of the Commission at least 24 hours before the meeting. "

3. Energy Committee

Energy section of town plan: The Planning Commission will review Ch. 3 (Energy) at their meeting this Wed., for revision next year. We discussed what it means for Action Steps to be listed in the Town Plan. **Alan will go to the meeting.**

Reorganizing the Energy Committee and recruiting new members
Guy was not here; Devin volunteered to help him, to replace Gary Fox, but they have not met. Other committee members do not have to be RCC members, so we discussed ways to recruit more members.

Municipal Solar Research Initiative Continued
We discussed having more RCC members work on this, to get it done sooner. **Devin, Alan and Rick volunteered to help Guy.**

4. Herrick's Cove and CT River

Mike shared a flyer on the CRWC event at Path of Life on June 20.

5. Natural Resources

High Meadows Flood Resiliency Grant Follow-up
Site visit is scheduled for June 17, **Peter will attend.** We got \$32K of a \$40K request, and need to find funds for tree planting, which was the project for Rockingham.

Update on Stream and Water Body Naming Project –Recommendations/letters/Hearing
The public meeting on June 2 was well attended and generated a number of questions. Dominic Poli is writing a story soon for the Reformer. Names changed as a result of comments include Cemetery Brook to Warner Brook; Parker Hill Brook to Locke Brook; and Covered Bridge Falls to Gages Falls. We may also change Missing Link Brook to Upper Meadow Brook, and Bellows Falls to Great Falls. Devin commented that he had heard “Upper Meadow” as the name for the Missing Link area, where there was an early settlement, so he supported making that the brook name. **Peter will contact Todd West, who suggested the Upper Meadow name, to finalize that name.** Alan pointed out that the falls were here before Colonel Bellows was, which argues for calling them “Great Falls.” **Peter will meet with the Walpole Conservation Commission on July 6 about the Bellows/Great Falls name. Peter will ask Marie Caduto if she can endorse the names for her agency,** or if not, we will need to get a petition signed with 25 names for each change (775 signatures total).

River Water testing 2015

Starts June 17, 6 sampling dates through August, every other Wednesday. We may post results at swimming sites so swimmers can see them. It's not decided yet if we will add a site at Twin Falls; access is an issue.

Planting of Exotic Trees in Rockingham

Peter forgot to ask Ellen Howard about whether they have a policy on this, and will do this soon.

Recycling and Organic Waste (new law)

Rick, Devin and Alan had volunteered to work on this but have not started. **They will investigate how Rockingham will address this.** They may invite Gary DeRosia, Town Recycling Coordinator, to come to a future meeting to discuss this.

7. Next Meeting: **Monday, July 13th, 7:00 PM**

Adjourned at 8:45, Alan moved, Rick seconded.

Minutes prepared by Peter Bergstrom, Secretary, 6/9/15.