



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

DRAFT

Rockingham Conservation Commission

MONDAY, September 8, 2014

7:00 pm

3rd Floor Meeting Room Town Hall

Agenda:

1. **Approve Minutes of July Meeting** (there was no meeting in August)

Alan moves to approve the minutes of July 14, 2014, Guy seconds;
motion carries - unanimous

Alteration to the Agenda and Guests Introductions 5 minutes

2. **Recruitment and Logistics 20**

Website updates and making more use of Facebook: Website is up but needs more work to be fully functional and allow individual updates such as RCC requests

Mail Chimp and general publicity, information transfer

AVCC Annual Meeting Nov. 1—Looking for Workshop Topics – RCC is rejoining as a commission and any commissioners can attend this event in Montpelier for free

3. **Minutes from March Regional Conservation Meeting** and Follow-up inc. Nat. Resource Inventory – Mike will forward minutes with contacts to other area conservation commissions –

- When a natural resource crosses a town line the group is looking for the commissions from each town to work together and look at joint grants for natural resources. They discussed the impact do the Conservation Commissions have and could have. Next meeting will be hosted by the Guilford Conservation Commission.

4. **Herrick's Cove and CT River**

-Paddle Battle is advertised Saturday Sep 21st and

- Source-to-Sea is Friday and Saturday Sep 26th and 27th – Guy will register RCC for the Source to Sea Clean-up, which triggers David Dean and CRWC to set it up

5. **Natural Resources**

Update on Stream and Water Body Naming Project - Peter gave an update on this project and he has a framed map that will go to the library for a couple of weeks before he gives a talk at the Library - **Rockingham Waterbody and Trails Program at Library November 20th**

Peter will present on water bodies and Mike will present on the trails (Dummerston Conservation Commission just received a \$500 from AVCC to create a trail map.

Vermont River Conservancy Swimming Hole Conservation Project – 3 part time workers – getting easements on VT rivers to provide more riparian protection including land along the Saxtons River out in Cambridgeport. They are looking to protect a swimming hole in every town in VT – in Rockingham, they are working on conserving the Stickney Field (Dump Corner) swimming hole.

SE VT Watershed Alliance River Water Quality Monitoring for 2014 is wrapping up, no requests for funding have come to the RCC from these folks this year.

Changes to VT Current Use Program—Ecological Sensitive Trt. Areas -
Changes in Current Use – enrolled forest land had to have a plan for timber harvest, and only 20% could be excluded as “non-productive” or “ecologically sensitive. Now, more than 20% can be enrolled as ecologically sensitive treatment areas. 6 different area of ecological categories for non-productive use without logging, so can protect these areas and still be eligible for Current Use program

Ash Borer Monitoring and Planning update – nothing new

Planning public hike or other activity – We will keep this on the agenda for now – considering Crystal Rock for a hike

6. Energy Committee

Municipal Solar Research Initiative Continued (including Cavendish Example) – Guy will follow-up with Cavendish and Waitsfield to understand the scenario where each of these towns has terminated agreements with 3rd party solar developers and taken over their municipal solar projects and are owning and administering it themselves with a bond.

Municipal Building Energy Audits – Chip has a facility heat survey form from us that he gave to his department heads and we have not gotten it back yet. We will use the survey results to explore utilizing the Biomass Heat conversion incentives by the Clean Energy Development Fund that is focusing on getting schools and municipal buildings to convert to Biomass heat.

Possible Net Zero Building Author Presentation – spoke on VT Edition, Alan and Guy will explore a book project with RCC, VSB and RFPL.

Streetlight Project Update - check on the BFMS GMP LED streetlight – not really needed with all the Middle School lights in the front of the building.

7. Announcements of Events of relevance to the RCC Mission- no announcements

8. Next Meeting (Monday, October 13th Columbus Day) at 7:00 pm, 3rd floor Town Hall

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm