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**DRAFT**

## **Rockingham Conservation Commission**

### **Minutes**

**October 13, 2014**

**Attending:** Alan Fowler, Mike Ghia, Tom Hernon, Guy Payne, Paul Wilson, Fred Bennett, Peter Bergstrom

**Absent:** Rick Holloway, Gary Fox

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The Commission meeting began at 7:05. September minutes unanimously approved

#### **Logistics:**

Mike got mail list onto Mail Chimp, unfortunately Rick Holloway did not receive Mail Chimp. Mike will figure out how to check for bad/non-received/rejected emails in Mail Chimp's diagnostics.

Alan has talked with Kerry Bennett about what the RCC can do on its own in updating and expanding the RCC's webpage on the Town Website. Alan will be the person do updates in coordination with Kerry.

Fred presented a framework for a separate RCC website, based on his state-wide research on Vermont Conservation Commissions' websites. Discussion ensued about what could be added to the Town Website vs a separate website or the RCC Facebook page. Fred and Alan will coordinate on further developing the RCC web presence. Anyone who has ideas about this should email both Fred and Alan.

Annual Meeting of Vermont Conservation Commissions will be on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Montpelier. Peter Bergstrom is going and will car pool with Lynne Levine.

#### **Herrick's Cove**

5 people participated in the Source to the Sea Clean-Up; 3 in kayaks, 1 cleaning up the picnic area and one recording while cleaning up the boat launch. Construction debris and 3 full trash bags were collected.

## **Natural Resources Committee**

Stream/Waterbody Naming Project: Nothing new to report; Reminder: Peter Bergstrom and Mike Ghia will present a program at the Library on November 20<sup>th</sup> "Trails and Bodies of Water in Rockingham.

Town Trail Mapping. Need to find or develop maps of Town trails to put on our website. It was recommended to contact Ray Perry first and then Tim Morton, Assistant State Forester. Also, students from the Compass School have done maps with the Pinnacle Association. It was also suggested to contact Vermont Academy and Bellows Falls Middle School and High School about developing student projects around developing maps.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a community celebration for the dedication of the Bellows Falls waterfront park that stretches from the Grist Mill to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Trail will eventually cross the Basin Farm and the Saxtons River and connect with the High School Trails and the Pinnacle's Bald Hill Trails.

Emerald Ash Borer: No report

Looking for a volunteer to plan a public hike either up to Crystal Rock or around Durand State Park. No volunteers at this point in time

## **Energy Committee:**

Ralph Meima from Green Lantern Financial is still working on the analysis of municipal electric use with the goal of demonstrating savings if the town transition to solar. Guy was encouraged to contact Richard Svec, Town Manager of Cavendish to learn of this town's decision to bond for solar installations to be owned by the Town outright instead of an intermediary.

Guy will contact Sam Matthews at the library to arrange for 2 presentations: 1.) Andrew Dey of Walpole to speak on German Community Energy Self-Sufficiency, and 2.) Bill Maclay on the New Net Zero.

## **Announcement of Events**

October 25; 3-5 PM Electric Vehicle Demonstration at the Marlboro Graduate Center, Brattleboro

December 6<sup>th</sup>. VECAN Conference

## **Next Meeting:**

November 10, 2014

**Adjournment** Meeting was adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully submitted

Guy Payne