

DRAFT

Rockingham Conservation Commission
MONDAY July 14 at 7:02 pm
3rd floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Members present: Mike Ghia – Chair, Guy Payne, Peter Bergstrom, Alan Fowler, Gary Fox
Absent: Paul Wilson, Rick Holloway, Tom Herson and Fred Bennett

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes of June Meeting

Alan moves to approve the minutes of June 9, Guy seconds;
motion carries - unanimous

Alteration to the Agenda and Guests Introductions 5 minutes

None

2. Recruitment and Logistics 15 minutes

Website updates and making more use of Facebook –

Alan will follow-up with Kerry on the new Town Website:

- a) What is the process to expand or add items to our RCC page
- b) Please add a link to join the RCC Facebook page
- c) Add the RCC mission statement

Mail Chimp and general publicity, information transfer

–No updates

AVCC Annual Meeting Nov. 1—Looking for Workshop Topics –

Peter could give a workshop on naming streams or even more general naming natural features.

AVCC has an Annual meeting and workshops – VNRC has taken over from VLCT with an MOU with AVCC and is now handling the operations / management of the AVCC and expects an upturn in annual meeting and conference (VNRC runs the VECAN for Energy Committees and does a great job and gets a lot of participation).

3. Herrick's Cove and CT River 10 minutes

Fishline clean-up –

The fish line receptacle is up.

Invasives removal– no updates

4. Energy Committee 30 minutes

Municipal Solar Research Initiative Continued –

Ralph Meima is working through Rockingham's electric bills. Ralph and Green Lantern Capital now has everything they needs to move forward with a proposal.

Municipal Building Energy Audits –

Energy Committee has acquired the Reports done by Honeywell about 5 years ago. There has not been a real energy audit with blower door tests and infra-red examination of insulation and

DRAFT

thermal barriers, but these reports make recommendations on upgrades. The Energy Committee will summarize and prioritize the recommendations for school and municipal buildings and report to RCC looking for approval to bring recommendations to the governing bodies. On the Schools, check with Norm Etkind who works for the Superintendent's Association; he did a comprehensive energy audit on elementary schools.

Streetlight Project Update -

No updates

5. Natural Resources 30 minutes

Windham Regional Plan Update Public Hearing July 29th-

<http://windhamregionalplan.wordpress.com/>

Here is the link to look at the plan –

The Town Plans are written in the context of the regional plan, so this has relevance to Rockingham and also development throughout the region.

VT Shoreline Protection Act

This law which David Deen has been working on for years, went into effect July 1st:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/cfm/PressRel/Detail.CFM?ID=3448>

No one has reviewed this yet on the RCC. Not clear on its implications if any to Rockingham and its zoning regulations.

Update on Stream and Water Body Naming Project (Peter)

There are 22 streams and brooks in Rockingham that do not have official names on the federal data base, though 13 have locally recognized names; Peter continuing to work through these with Marie Caduto

For the nine brooks remaining to be resolved:

Federal process for naming, need to show sought local input;

- Ask the Town to officially notify abutters and property owners where the brook runs through and ask for suggestions, any input or objections to suggested names
- Do other public events and outreach to involve more of the public
- present findings and recommendations to the Rockingham Selectboard at warned hearing

Peter had planned to be at a table in SR on July 4th but it was raining so there were not a lot of people and, it was not possible to put out the maps in the booth.

Peter will have the stream naming maps at a table at Rockingham Old Home Days.

Ash Borer Monitoring and Planning update

- Alma is still seeking volunteers to help go around and do a survey.

SE VT Watershed Alliance River Water Quality Monitoring for 2014

- The testing and reports are done every two weeks and the first two the reports have been posted.
- The reports are up on the town website and on Facebook through July 2nd
- SEVWA contacted Mike about soliciting funds for testing again this year, but he has not made a direct connection with their contact yet.

DRAFT

Planning public hike or other activity

Gary had spoken with Tim Morton who would provide a guided trail walk in Durands Forrest, in the Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer; Tim could provide a good program for any season.

The activity needs a coordinator; if we can find someone interested in this to be a non-Commission committee member, they could begin planning with in concert with the Grafton Nature Museum and the Rockingham Public Library 6 months in advance of the activity. It was reconfirmed that no one present currently has time for organizing this, so it remains on the backburner.

6. Announcements of Events of relevance to the RCC Mission-all. 5 minutes

Solarfest 25th anniversary is this weekend in Tinmouth, VT

7. No meeting in August; Confirm Next Meeting (Monday, September 8th)

The next meeting will be Sep 8, on the 3rd floor, Town Hall at 7:00 pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Fox, Secretary, RCC