

Rockingham Conservation Commission

February 8, 2016

Mike Ghia called the meeting was called to order at 7 PM.

Present: Mike Ghia, chair; Paul Wilson; Alan Fowler; Guy Payne; Amy Howlett; Devin Smith; Tom Hernon; Fred Bennett on the telephone

1. Devin moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Alan seconded. Approved. (no quorum in January, so no minutes). No alteration to the agenda, no guests.
2. Recruitment and logistics. Alan and Paul have terms expiring in March. Alan plans to leave, Paul is not sure. Alan will continue working on recycling. Fred will check with Eric Romberg at the Compass School, a science teacher and possible new committee member. Committee members must be Rockingham residents. Kerry Bennett is the contact for reappointment. The select board posts vacancies after town meeting. Website: Fred has created a temporary website at riverbankworks.com with information from the town page. Let Fred know if changes need to be made. Chuck Wise is planning on attending the next RCC meeting; he can log into the wi-fi to look at the website. Village Square Books has offered to pay for webhosting; Fred will host until the website goes live. Peter and Mike have the login for Mail Chimp; there are 200 subscribers. Mail Chimp might be useful for Green Up Day, the Vernal Pools program and other RCC publicity. Facebook is the most active outlet for the RCC; should we post agendas there?
3. Coordination with Planning Commission: Joint meeting tentatively planned for April. Peter is getting natural resources drafts together for the plan. Mike has one to do. The draft committee will meet with Peter to review drafts before presenting them to the Planning Commission. Devin offered to contribute.
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4. Trail Connections: Peter has been working with the tax map of parcels pertaining to the Pinnacle trail on the western side of Saxtons River. The RCC Committee on the Trail Connection includes Peter, Mike, Paul, and Fred. Members from the Pinnacle come some times. A spring hike is planned, to see if there's interest in the leg and get property owners involved. Sections are part of VAST Abenaki Snowmobile Club.
5. Herricks Cove and CT River: Alma Beals has sent out emails about the Herricks Cove Festival, She mentioned WOW, the state trailer on water quality, is not coming. Tom suggested talking to Matt Cole about whether the Agency of Natural Resources is sending anyone to the Festival. Matt takes care of parking and logistics for Herricks Cove.
6. Energy Committee
PACE and Town Meeting vote: PACE is Property Assessed Clean Energy. Guy has organized a presentation at the Rockingham Library, February 17, 7 - 8 pm. Alan asked for details so FACT TV can cover. Guy will create some copy and find a picture for Facebook. Mark Kelly from Efficiency Vermont will cover PACE. Laurie Fielder and Lisa Dibernardo from the VSECU will

present the Heat Saver Loan, another way to finance energy. On 2/29, Guy will speak to the PACE district resolution at Town Meeting before the vote.

Rockingham School District potential participation in Regional Solar Project: GMP got to its cap in Springfield. There was a statewide effort on solar projects aimed at schools.

7. Natural Resources: The Vernal Pool Presentation has been set up for the Library 2/17. Anne Dempsey is publicizing. The RCC will hold a weather-dependent walk in March or April; Mike asked that names and emails be collected at the program and walk for Mail Chimp. The spring ephemerals will be up the last week of March through the third week of April. Peter, Devin, Paul and the Library will help with publicity. People might sign up for the walk when they come to the library program.

Flood Resiliency: Devin is in touch with Jolene Hamilton of Windham Natural Resources Conservation District, WNRCD for soil and water conservation. Devin and Peter talked about having a volunteer day to do plantings and site mulching for flood resiliency grant, planting in early May.

The stream and water body naming body project: names went to the Agency of Natural Resources for endorsement. They approved all except Brockway Mills Falls with the new Abenqui name; ANR didn't like the absence of past usage. Marie Caduto is bringing back to ANR to reconsider. The names go next to the Board of Libraries to approve, ending a two year project.

Green Up Day: Guy and Amy working through RCC to organize Green Up Day, replacing Ed Dinnany. They will contact Kerry Bennett and begin planning in March.

Recycling and Organic Waste: Alan Fowler is still interested after he goes off the board, as are Devin and Rick Holloway.

8. Announcements about meetings.

2/23 Windham County regional round table for energy committee leaders, 5:30 - 7:30 at Marlboro College Graduate School. Will include presentation from the Building Performance Professionals Association of VT on the Zero Energy Now program, deep energy retrofits for homeowners. 35k to 50k projects are the target. Energy committees and coordinators from area towns will share. Johanna Miller, VT Natural Resources Council, will talk about legislative energy issues.

9. Alan moved to adjourn. Guy seconded the motion which passed unanimously at 8:23 pm.

Amy Howlett, clerk in Peter Bergstrom's absence