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Rockingham Conservation Commission

MONDAY, October 10, 2016

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 by Vice Chair Amy Howlett. Present: Amy Howlett, Peter Bergstrom, Tom Hennon; Absent: Mike Ghia, Devin Smith, Guy Payne
Guests: Alex Barrett, Chuck Wise

1. Approve Minutes of September Meeting (circulated on 9/13). Tom moved, Paul seconded, passed.

2. Recruitment and Logistics

Website updates: Former RCC member Fred Bennett was working on this; Amy wrote to him to find out its status, but did not get a reply. Tom agreed to call him to find out more.

Recruitment: Tom mentioned Margaret Perry, who has expressed an interest in rejoining the RCC; she was a founding member and served for about 2 years. She is a neighbor of Tom's. Tom will ask her to send a letter to the Selectboard asking to be appointed.

3. Coordination with Planning Commission

Chuck Wise handed out a memo dated 10/7 asking the Selectboard that Rockingham have a separate Planning Commission and Development Review Board, in common with most other Vermont towns of our size. The letter recommended that each of these two new groups include a Conservation Commission member, both to act as a liaison between the groups, and to have a vote in the decisions of each group. The Selectboard will consider this proposal a week from tomorrow (10/18). Tom thought this was a good idea, and commented that we are one of the few towns in the state that still have a joint board for these functions. He thinks each function requires different skill and aptitudes, and Chuck agreed. Chuck will staff both of the new boards, if the change is approved. If the Selectboard approves the split, Chuck will return to ask if the RCC can help staff these, either as a regular member or an alternate. Tom said he was interested in the DRB slot.

Expanding Natural Resources Overlay District near Herricks Cove: Chuck showed us the current zoning map and asked if we wanted the Natural Resource Overlay District for Herricks Cove to be expanded to the west, possibly to include the area on the east side of US 5 that was considered for the Justice Center. Chuck agreed to ask Windham Regional staff to make us a map of the area under consideration to help us assess its ecological value and make a recommendation.

4. Follow-up: Trail Connection possibilities between Pinnacle Lands and Rockingham

Peter, Mike and Paul attended a meeting of the Pinnacle Association's Bald Hill Committee on Oct. 6 to discuss this issue. They discussed how to move forward with making connections, and agreed to meet again in November to plan a public meeting in early 2017 (probably at the Rockingham Library) to generate more support. We studied the trail map and discussed possible trail connections.

5. Energy Committee

Municipal Solar Research Initiative Continued Gravel Pit Proposal Green Lantern: we reviewed the Select Board decision on Sept. 20 not to pursue it

SEON **Sustainable Home Tour, Sat. Oct. 15** <http://www.seon.info/HomeTour/>

Energy Committee Educational Programming: **Wet basement seminar** at Rockingham library, on Mon. 10/24, 7:00

6. Other Activities Natural Resources

Follow-up from Saxtons River Tree planting and new sites: Peter commented that survival was good at both the Rockingham and Westminster planting sites. If we get enough grant funding, another Rockingham planting is planned for early May 2017, possibly near the Saxtons River Playhouse, Stickney Field, and/or McBride Lane. Peter will keep working with Devin on finding sites.

Update on Stream and Water Body Naming Project –Mapping and Hill Names

Peter gave an update on the waterway naming project, and the US Board of Geographic Names (US BGN) action on it this week; they may approve all 24 of the remaining waterway names on Thursday 10/13, making them official names that will appear on maps. Peter also gave a brief overview the hill naming project that grew out of it, when the person who had researched the names for the US BGN asked about the hills that some of the brooks were named after (Wiley Hill and Hyde Hill), which are not official names. When Peter discussed these with Jeff Nugent, the cartographer at Windham Regional, Jeff mentioned that The Pinnacle, and possibly other hills along Pinnacle trails, also lack official names. Peter investigated and has a tentative list of 7 hills along Pinnacle (and Putney Mountain) trails that need official names; he will discuss this with the Pinnacle Association board on 11/17, and also with the Putney Mountain Association. Peter will continue research and give another update at our next meeting.

8. Confirm NEXT MEETING Scheduled for Monday, November 14th but Peter and Mike are not available. Amy suggested **Wed 11/16** as a possible alternate date, since the Town Hall will be open for a movie that night; Amy will send an email to RCC members asking if that would work for them. It will be warned as a special meeting if most RCC members can attend then.

Adjourned at 8:37, Paul moved and Tom seconded, approved.

Submitted by Peter Bergstrom, Clerk, on 10/11/16.