

Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton VT 05676

802-434-5075

Conservation Commission

July 11, 2016 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Lars Botzjorns, Amy Ludwin, Jerry Mullen , Virginia Haviland

Members Absent: Steve McLeod, Ali Kosiba

Guest: Tony Barbagallo , Rob Mullen

1. Review, and comments, approval of minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting . Moved to approve Amy, 2nd Jerry, All in favor.
2. Additions or deletions to the agenda.
3. Public Comments. Rob Mullen: is interested to discuss the issue of dogs and leashes at PPCA.
4. COI question; potential or possible conflict of interest issue for discussion about any of the topics that are on this agenda ? No.
5. Wheeler Field update; summary . Parcel of Land being sold, Wheeler Field and adjoining lands. Discussion of the CC's possible role in a project to conserve the Field, with a deed to the Town eventually. Tony Barbagallo summarizes the current info. on that prospective opportunity, what the process might be, and a possible/ likely option to buy when that becomes possible. One aspect of fundraising, could be the conservation fund. Discussion. Gerry moved that we approve the concept of an option to buy the Wheeler Field parcel. 2nd by Lars. Called question Jerry, All are in favor of the concept of an option to buy the Wheeler Field parcel.

6. Proposed PPCA Management Plan- current status update.- Approval letter arrived from Vermont Land Trust for PPCA forest management plan. Final map , conservation plan map, official attachment to the plan have been reviewed and approved by the Vermont Land Trust. Lars will put the letter of approval into the PPCA plan itself as an attachment.

Discussed a suggestion from Cara Montgomery at VLT for additional wording on: restrictions for the reasons allowed for in the conservation easement.

Discussed dogs on leashes at PPCA, and when the SB will be having a larger discussion on this topic. That might be in Sept. ? The CC would like to discuss, and be involved in giving input when that happens. We discussed that, and for now are: In favor for safety : of dogs on leash during deer rifle season.

Discussed questions from SB re 6/20 meeting; Input on: 3 subsets : organizational questions, substantive issues, minor discussions.

Jerry Mullen and Rob Mullen will work to compile a history of the area, cultural resources, cellar holes, fence lines, mammals and fish, wildlife ; they can consult with neighbors and other resources as they see fit.

Location of Streeter easement, where that should go in the plan. Propose we leave that where it is page 7, and make a reference to where to see it on last pages.

Time table. The forest management plan has a time table. There are some bolded items for guidance in terms of priorities. Insects, invasives, fish, etc. We don't want to hold up the plan, other info. will be gathered in the following way: To be determined by time, funds, availability of resources will be made clearer in the document.

Plowing and grading at trailheads; also TBD.

Forest management plan: is already detailed on patch cutting, goal of maintaining diversity of forest, all of which are subservient to the conservation goals of the parcel.

Mountain Biking : sorry to say : soils not able to sustain this use.

Sanitation needs; not seen as a pressing issue. Easement restriction p. 6, on storage of trash, unsightly waste, human waste prohibited. Unless permitted VLT.

Dawn to dusk wording, daylight hours.

State Police patrols Bolton in general. On, p 9, proposed delete that line, as we are not doing outreach to the State Police for specific patrols for trail heads at PPCA.

Steward appointed position.

Leave no trace, & mud season suggested restrictions.

Rare plants, natural processes change these locations. We've addressed that already in the plan.

Recreation fee for use of area: not seen as needed in the plan. If we need funds for the PPCA the CC could fund raise, seek grants, seek donations from the public who use the trails.

7. Floodplain Inventory - update. Landowner permission follow up, Jerry will make phone calls, do outreach, will be in touch with Amy Grover and/ or Carol Devlin at the Town Office as needed . Amy L. is the current contact with Arrowwood with Jerry for July, in August Virginia will pair with Jerry to follow this project and be the contacts. Arrowwood will do what they can with: Town owned land, and State lands that we've secured permission for, and for landowner parcel with permission, and via the River.

8. Items for next meeting agenda.

Jerry will have report on Floodplain contacts.

Jerry and Rob will have summary of history of PPCA.

Possible outreach- seek MMU student volunteer for secretary?

9. Other communications/mail .

10. Adjournment . Virginia moved to adjourn, 2nd Jerry, All in favor.

These minutes are unofficial until accepted.

These minutes were read and accepted by a quorum of the Conservation Commission
on: 9/19/16

Amy F. Johnson
NAU

For the Conservation Commission