

Town of Bolton
Conservation Commission Minutes
November 27, 2017

Board Members Present: Amy Ludwin, Virginia Haviland, Ali Kosiba, Jerry Mullen, Steve McLeod

Board Members Absent: Gary Urban

Guests: Two community members (7:00-7:40)

Clerk: Paula Gervia

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Amy at 6:06 pm.

2. Additions or Deletions to the agenda and Conflict of Interest

Amy shared news that Gary has submitted his resignation due to health concerns.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Steve made the motion to approve minutes of 10-16-17, Ali seconded, motion was approved (5-0).

5. General Business

- Camel's Hump Management Unit Long Range Plan
 - Three different public hearings are scheduled. Comments are being accepted. Amy handed out draft plan and comment cards to the board to submit comments/questions as interested.
 - Review of components/trails that are directly linked to Bolton.
- Review of town plan to-do list/CC to-do list
 - Review of to-do list items
 - Posting safety information for hunting seasons - Ali - ongoing annually
 - Inventory scenic landscapes - question about whether this should be moved to the Planning Commission as the lead committee with Conservation Commission support as appropriate, feel this lies in the jurisdiction of planning commission guidelines
 - Inventory wildlife travel corridors - Jens will be here later to discuss how to support this

- Assess projects to stabilize banks of rivers - feel like this is a bigger project than the Conservation Commission can do alone, need to have consultants help with this, may be able to do the assessment but may not be able to do the undertaking of the projects, need to identify what the outcome of these projects would be, does it just bring more attention to the needs of our town to others? Can we change the wording to say assess and consider recommendations for projects (as opposed to undertake projects)?
 - Verify organizations following trail standards - Ali - this is ongoing as well
 - Host hunter education courses - Steve - has reached out to Fish and Wildlife and is waiting to hear back.
- Review of PPMP to-do list
 - Trails - Ross Johnson has finished the bridge as Eagle Scout project, Ali will send photos for Gazette and Town Report
 - Forestry plans - Ethan will be coming to discuss this later
 - Parking area - Ali and Amy met with Gene Armstrong and Eric Andrews to review plan for parking; meeting with wetland scientist for further review re: buffers/regulations; need to fill out town's conditional use/zoning forms to submit by January for review
 - On-going budget for Steward - Steve made motion to approve allotment of \$125.00 for money available for Steward (signs, etc.), Jerry seconded, motion approved (5-0).
 - Kiosks posting - posting for hunting, possibly moving kiosks closer to trailheads, see if any volunteers interested in helping with this
 - Budget item for \$16.25 for supplies for Rob Mullen for beaver baffle - Steve made motion to approve funding, Ali seconded, motion approved (5-0).
- Floodplain updates
 - Grant applications for work is moving along with the State and the Friends of the Winooski (FOW). No needs by Conservation Committee at this time.
- Town report
 - Amy and Virginia have been working on the summary.

6. Appointments

- Jens Hilke (7:00)
 - Amy asked for information re: support for town plan to-do item of inventorying and mapping wildlife travel corridors.

- Bolton has massive forest blocks - most wildlife crossings look at those forest blocks, this is hard to do in Bolton given so much habitat on both sides of the road (East-West movement between Notch and Stage Roads). Jens looked at computer programs that outline wildlife crossings, could spend a lot of money to do field studies although this may not be cost effective for our town given our miles of roads.
- North-South movement has potential barriers - Interstate 89, Route 2 and possibly the river for some wildlife. When looking at interstate barrier, need to look at larger area (Burlington-Montpelier) and results would show Bolton is the richest area for wildlife crossing. During repaving of Route 2, VTrans paid for wildlife road tracking on I89 and Duxbury Roads, and wildlife shelf in Little River State Park. That data begins to lay out the best crossings. A lot of wildlife noted and comparatively less animals crossing Interstate and Route 2. Some animals using culverts under roads are not impacted by road barriers. Road kill data is inconclusive due to limited information. Pictures on cameras of more people crossing Pinneo Brook than wildlife crossing. Preferred new underpass around Sharkyville (recommendation for State not Bolton responsibility).
- Lot of work done already for wildlife survey from Arrowwood data. The town controls future development which impacts wildlife crossings. Need to consider how to monitor and make recommendations for development for less impact on wildlife, although hard to regulate given the current great spread of wildlife crossings. Regulations should be in sync with the quality of the science of wildlife data.
- Genetic diversity and climate change may impact wildlife crossings.
- Would like to narrow down some topics to get more information from him - identify 5 most important areas (focus on East-West corridor).
- Ethan Tapper (8:10)
 - Kyle Pratt joined meeting - he will be doing Forestry work on Preston Pond.
 - Review of firewood process - Selectboard has figured out a process where some of the logged firewood will be delivered to residents that apply for it, lottery system, and depending on number of applications, will determine other details, and if there might be some small fee to the person receiving the wood, or if it might be at no cost. Cost of cutting, skidding and trucking (125/cord) will be taken up by town. Worker cuts timber, sends to mill, gets paid by mill and then reimburses town for some of that money - all outlined in contract. All in compliance with management plan.

- Saturday or Sunday in December (possibly Dec 16th at 1:30) - organize public walk. Meeting place to be determined. Ethan will write post for Gazette, Front Porch Forum, Facebook page, etc. Conservation Committee to help set that up. Help with informational signage as well - at entries to park in harvest area. Ali will work on signage.

7. Other Business

- Next board meeting scheduled for: January 15, 2018
- Items for next agenda: Review town plan to-do list (section that outlines CC work with other boards, as well as follow-up on questions of CC to-do list that may be moved to another lead section); Schedule of action to-do list from PPCA (to include: forestry plan update, parking area, abutting landowner - 30 minutes); Amy update with Jens Hilke
- Other communication: None at this time.

8. Adjournment

Ali made the motion "to close the meeting", Virginia seconded, no further discussion, all in favor and motion passed (4-0) at 8:35 pm.

Attest: Paula Gervia, Clerk Minutes are unofficial until approved.

These minutes were read and accepted by a quorum of the Conservation Commission on:

For the Conservation Commission