

Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway, Bolton VT 05676
802-434-5075
Conservation Commission Draft Minutes
January 23 2016
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Present: Amy Ludwin, Virginia Haviland, Ali Kosiba, Steve McLeod, Jerry Mullen
Guests: CC Volunteer helper Brian Mezitt, CC Volunteer minute taker: Miranda Grover,
and Matt Mead

1. Review, and discussion of/ additions to, minutes of the 12/05/2016 meeting .
Steve motions to move the minutes to be approved, all in favor.
2. Additions or deletions to the agenda.
No additions or deletions.
3. Public Comments
None.
4. COI : does any member have a potential or possible conflict of interest related to any of the topics on this agenda?
None.
5. Trails grant for PPCA Libby's Reroute: Matching funds, FPR trail grants: <http://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/grants/rtp>– Report from Ali's meeting w/ SB, and process.
Ali in discussion with SB, they were in favor, and able to work with our funding request. Ali walked the trail with GPS, mapped it out with Wyatt from VYCC , trail relocation is now marked and mapped. We'll need : approx.: ~\$75 for some new signs, The reroute will take about 4 weeks Cost of ~\$30,000 for 4 weeks. Grant will fund most of the project, (other funding from Conseration Funds), and it seems like we have a fair possibility of obtaining that. The State requires us to have an archaeological review, discussion on this. Decided: would be best to pay for this up front to save time, cost of up to an additional \$3,000. The grant will be approved (or not) by end of April.
Amy makes motion to propose \$33,000 for the grant. Voted: All in favor.
Jerry mentioned an old logging trail in the Preston Pond area in need of work. While this is not under the area of this grant, it is still important and Jerry made a plan with Ali to show her that location . Jerry also suggested that there is a :Possibly need gravel for Preston Pond area, on VAST trail, short discussion of this, we'd need approval from VAST for this, and VLT . Brian will talk to Larry Burt about this issue. Jerry estimates 45 yards needed, 3 truckloads of gravel. Discuss more at next meeting, need to follow up with SB and VLT if this were to happen.
6. VT F&W site visit letter. Rob Mullen letter.
Planting for habitat improvement is not an option. F&W choose to have their response be mostly to questions sent earlier. Short discussion about F&W point of view, and other points of view. Rob's input.

Discussion about one option being to bring up trapping for public vote. Pros and cons of this. Discussion : Ali wondering is this something the BCC wants to recommend? Or not? Steve is against this idea. It could be a recommendation of the select board if they were to choose to do so, or could be brought up from any member of the public to ask for a public Town wide vote. The community is divided about trapping, not much middle ground. Decision: The BCC will move forward at this time with the trapping discussion by sending it to the SB.

Re: Problems/concerns with dogs being caught in traps, shared info . from the VACC discussion. Discussion of Vet role in dog injury, and that vets do not report out on this. Matt does know that incidents are recorded in public records, and this does happen, but no one is now required to report it to F&W. Should these documents be added to the PPCA MP document? if so should other input in support of trapping to balance out those documents? Discussion: Already a lot of attachments, & information re: dogs and trapping has been circulated to the SB and CC already, not needed in the attachments, idea is dropped.

7. PPCA proposed Management Plan completion . Timeline/table of priorities, Virginia. Send to: VLT for review, and BSB.

Virginia is mostly done with the table. Discussion about skid trails, culverts and bridges on trails, and input from foresters included in the table. Some minor wording changes/additions/deletions, all comments addressed. Consultation with SB and PC about upkeep of the Preston Pond parking lot to keep it available year round could happen in the future , how often does parking area really need to be reviewed? 5 year check in? Virginia is in contact with Ethan Trapper and Keith (foresters) about logging activities, skid trails and recreational trails. Schedule update revision to 2027 to Ethan. Need to know that Ethan is using the most recent document/did it come from Keith? Omission of Green Mountain Club and The VT Mountain Bike Association in the document. Only VAST, VLT and BCC included in new wording. Ali, Amy and Virginia will divide up the work for this.

BCC members will review the Management Plan and Forest Management Plan at home and bring back concerns to the group before Monday. Once we are done: send it to the VLT before the next meeting, so it can then go to the SB asap. Jerry motions to approve the chart amendments, Amy seconds.

Steve does not agree with trapping wording in the plan, he'd like to go on record :votes no on the plan based on the trapping provisions only.

8. Floodplain Inventory Report.

Amy sent a link to everyone, can be read by all and discussed later., due to short on time this meeting.

9. Bolton Town Plan Actions Chart review. Group review of items and feedback as follows:

Action item 61 : ok

Action item: 59: ok

Action item 60: we propose to :Remove “Recreation Committee” from responsible party 1, and move CC to responsible party 1, make PP Steward move to responsible party 2, make recreation committee responsible party 3

Item 63:

Proposal to change wording of action item, we’d like it to read: Verify that trail building organizations seeking to build or maintain trails in the town of Bolton have adopted appropriate trail standards.

CC stays as responsible party 1, SB responsible partner 2

Item 64 – Proposed: Change this to : Rec. Committee responsible party 1

Item 65 – Please add VTRANS, F&W, volunteers to partners

Item 27 – Remove CC from this, delete us from responsible party 3, this is not in our area .

Item 51 – We’d like to be able to add the CC as partner #3 with action item about stabilizing stream banks.

All these had the support of the whole CC, with one exception: Steve McLeod wanted to be on record supporting BCC position on all items in town plan action list reviewed except investigating wildlife corridors, item 65.

10. Next Meeting schedule. Feb 20th if we need to, and/ or April 3rd.
County forester, Ethan Trapper will be invited for April 3rd.

11. Review of communications/mail . none

12. Adjournment 9:10 pm.