



Meeting Minutes:
Bolton Conservation Commission
Bolton Town Offices
Theodore Roosevelt Highway Route 2, Bolton
Monday 6/12/2017

6 – 8:30 p..m.

Present: Amy Ludwin, Virginia Haviland, Ali Kosiba, Steve McLeod, Gary Urban, Jerry Mullen

Guests:

Katie Kain - Fish and Wildlife (US)
Anne Smith -- Friends of the Winooski
Jay Nerenberg -- VT FPR
Pete Kerby Miller -- F&W intern
Heather Furman - VYCC, Intervale CC.

1. Call to order
2. Additions or deletions? none
3. Public comment . none
4. Conflict of interest? none
5. Approval of past meeting minutes
Monday April 10, move Gary, Steve 2nd, all in favor
6. Review of: Winooski Floodplain Report

It was noted that some of the significant erosion issues are on state land and we can work with Jay on these specific areas. There are areas of significant erosion on property that is privately owned, and we will need to do outreach to those landowners to see if they would like our help to prevent losing land to the river in a extreme weather event.

Virginia had heard that someone was seen with harvested trash bags full of fiddlehead ferns Memorial Day weekend and was told about the restriction on commercial harvesting at the Sarah Holbrook property, but the person stated that they were harvesting personally and we don't know exactly where that harvesting occurred. This was after Ali posted the signs approved by the SB to restrict commercial harvesting in the Floodplain.

Ali has noted that invasive species removal could be good to do on Sarah Holbrook Property, plus there is a lot of trash that could be cleaned up. The area is getting a lot more traffic now

with the Long Trail and it could be nice to have a loop trail on property. Virginia noted that it could be a good opportunity with the Smilie students. She will look into that. Heather Furman - heather.h.furman@gmail.com, who works for VYCC and Intervale Community Center -- indicated interest, and has experience in helping with trail building design and native planting. She is going to sketch up some ideas and will connect with Ali about it. Virginia also noted that she has seen people jumping off the GMC bridge.

What about having a Floodplain Steward? Amy will reach out about this to town. Gary is interested in erosion control issue. Erosion control will mostly involve following up with the State of VT and Friends of Winooski and seeking to connect with individual landowners. He will also ask the Nature Conservancy about invasive species removal events. Leslie is making a map of the floodplain parcels and the contact information.

Question from the invited guests: is this only about Winooski River or also its tributaries? The report deals with the Winooski at this moment, but there are some issues with the mouths of tributaries (e.g., Preston Brook). Ann (FOW) asked if we are looking to hard armor the banks (e.g., use rocks, etc.) or use vegetative buffers. We are looking more into using vegetation to protect properties and control erosion.

FOW works with town- and privately- owned land, and work with landowners to plant woody vegetative buffer. They have a minimum vegetative buffer of 35 feet, but prefer it to be bigger (e.g 50-75 ft) where the Winooski is wide and where landowners are in agreement to do so. FOW don't work with ag land, but F&W does (and they have specific funding offsets for ag land). FOW usually doesn't go below ½ ac property, but it is dependent on situation. There is NO cost share to land-owner -- they provide the plant material and volunteers. However, they do like to get land owner involved, e.g., site prep, brush hogging, invasive removal, etc. FOW needs someone local from Bolton to contact landowners. FOW also noted that planting is not a panacea for erosion, and it can take a long time to see results. Therefore, we need to caution landowners that erosion can still happen while the sapplings take root and are starting to grow. FOW doesn't have an invasive species control program, but works with the local community for invasive species control. They also sometimes hire a summer crew to maintain sites and control invasives. They try to buy large planting stock, but need to keep competition (both from natives and invasives) down, which can require maintenance. In summer, FOW does outreach to landowners for following year, and they strive to get planting order in by Dec 1. Ann is willing to sit down and look over maps and figure out priorities, with Gary, and/or others from the CC.

Katie -- looking at this area for fish habitat, esp. because there is now salmon reproduction in Richmond. F&W works with FOW to get projects complete, and has funding for ag land (CREPS program). Will do site assessment for planting (which is based off the species composition in the current natural communities), and stock from the Intervale Nursery.

Jay -- ANR owns the Lafrenier fields, which are leased to Maple Wind Farm. Set to have 100 ft buffer (State of Vt has a minimum of 100 ft buffer from streams), but that is not always maintained. The are areas for riparian planting, particularly in the easternmost field. Farmer will re-fence that area to enhance the buffer in field by Preston Brook. Jay expressed interest in floodplain restoration of Preston Brook, and all state owned land (from canoe launch to LT footbridge). The State does do active restoration, but need to apply for funding. FOW could

provide volunteers. He is going to look at this area with DEC. Jay could use a letter of support from the BCC for applying to funding.

Discussion about silt in Preston Brook. Jay has seen that there are a number of slides up on the banks of the brook, but it does not have anything to do with the logging that occurred in recent years. He is going to walk out there with the state geologist to see if there are anything that can be done. He'll notify the BCC as to the date and time of that, and any of us available can attend, as well as Ann from FOW who is interested to be there too.

What was the criteria for grading lands in the Floodplain report? Report highlighted areas where there was light invasive species, or areas with significant erosion. The goal is to target landowners of areas with significant issues. When we get positive responses, Katie and Ann are happy to come to site visits and do assessments.

Heather is willing to look into the idea of making a loop trail at Sarah Holbrook -- Ali will connect with her about walking out there sometime to look at possibilities and inform the rest of the BCC.

Gravel pit (state owned) on Duxbury Road: they had work done there last year, grading and seeding, but it didn't totally work. There were more seeps on the property than they thought. There will be re- work of that area to address this in a new way, should happen this summer.

Pete will let us know about salmon moving up the Winooski -- shows how important this work is. Amy offered that she can post any little write up about river health issues in the Bolton Gazette.

7. Follow ups:

- VRC potholes letter -- nothing

- Trail relocation at PPCA -- didn't get the funding. Ali following up on info . from VYCC if they have any ideas / options / funding.

- Ali has been in touch with the Richmond Boy Scouts, there is an eagle scout that wants to replace the bridge on the PP loop trail. They are also interested in other service opportunities at PP. Bridge board replacement by Rob Mullen, reimbursement.

- FOW Rainwater Project -- no additions. Work will proceed over the summer

- Grammatical changes -- no additions. The BCC decided against making grammatical changes in the BCC's final proposed Preston Pond Conservation Area Management Plan. This Proposed Plan will be taken up by the Select Board June 19. The Select Board has final authority over Plan content. Draft Preston Pond Management Plan – approved by the BCC dated, March 7, 2017 can be seen at:

<http://boltonvt.com/boards-minutes/conservation-commission/>

Ethan Tapper Our country Forester, — going to walk the old logging trails and look at timber management with Ali (contact) and Steve M. ; others will join them for the 3 to look at roads, re: timber work at PPCA. All CC members will be notified and invited.

Biking at VAST trail -- Brian is still working on it from the private landowner. P. 28 of the PPMP we have language that indicates that biking is only allowed subject to permission by VAST and Churchill landowner. Amy contact.

Dogs and hunting season -- Steve had awhile ago contacted SB about this as there was discrepancy between what we said in the proposed PPMP for dog restrictions during deer hunting season and what they'd like to see; reaffirmed: we will defer to the SB on their wording on this.

8. Renewal of AVCC membership

Costs \$50. Jerry moves, Amy seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

9. AVCC tiny grant for Sue Morse talk. We'll use \$50 for Sue Morse's talk, so full cost covered by grants and this.

Virginia will contact her about this, organize date, location, details.

With the small amount of extra funds in the CC annual this year budget: will use for PP management, signs, supplies. Steve moved. Jerry seconded. All in favor.

. Ali will ask how much money is extra. Ali will get sign wood, other trail materials for PP. Needs to be spent or requested by end of fiscal year/ June!

10. Mail - none.

11.

BCC's next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 25. 6-8 pm

Saving the date of June 26 for a Special Meeting on the PPCA Proposed Plan if Select Board action requires a Special Meeting by the CC.

Possible non meeting work day at PPCA over the summer, Ali will notify us of that.

12. Items for next meeting. Sue Morse talk. Floodplain. Budget. Trails update. Smilie School FOW update.

13. Closing. Steve moves we adjourn, Virginia seconds, all in favor.

These minutes are unofficial until accepted.

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

For the Conservation Commission