

Town of Bolton
Conservation Commission Minutes
October 16, 2017

Board Members Present: Amy Ludwin, Virginia Haviland, Steve McLeod, Gary Urban, Ali Kosiba

Board Members Absent: Jerry Mullen

Guests: None

Clerk: Paula Gervia

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Amy at 6:09 pm.

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

Ethan Tapper will join board for forestry update.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Steve made the motion to approve minutes of 9-25-17, Ali seconded, motion was approved (5-0).

5. General Business

- Check in on long term floodplain outreach plan
 - Erosion review - been in touch with major landowner (David Conant), he should be available at end of season to discuss town plan with recommendations - set up walk through to look at property and discuss erosion, i.e. buffers.
 - Still working on reaching landowner on Joiner Brook to identify boundaries/river frontage on which water source.
 - Continuing to contact additional landowners for cooperation with stabilization for erosion areas.
 - Posting notice for FPF, town gazette re: Friends of Winooski planting time.
- Discuss town management tool with town plan to-do list
 - Reviewed handout of current town plan to-do list for conservation commission. Need to review and identify leaders from the committee that will head each section.
 - Inventory scenic landscapes features and recommend regulatory and non-regulatory options - suggestion to find a consultant to perform this action. Need clarity on the priority of this.
 - Placing safety information related to hunting season - currently in place (kiosks at Preston Pond, Notch Road, Stage Road), may need to clean out areas and make kiosks larger for greater visibility.

- Assess projects to stabilize banks of rivers - this is a large undertaking, some work done near Smilie School, work re: erosion with floodplain.
 - Inventory wildlife travel corridors - consider board training in the use of Biofinder. Amy will invite Jens Hilke to next meeting.
 - Verify organizations following trail standards for new trails - we have had VYCC crews in the past, Ethan Tapper on board, etc.
 - Hosting hunter education courses - not aware of any in Bolton. Steve will reach out to Fish and Wildlife for their schedule and try to make it available at the town office.
 - Additional CC to-do list and areas where CC is assisting other town boards - tabled for future meeting.
- Preston Pond Management Plan (PPMP)
 - Suggestion to look at the timeline and identify needs, i.e. parking issues and upkeep of parking area. Amy and Ali will team on this discussion.
- Trails update
 - Idea for walking loop on Sara Holbrook property. Would need vegetation removed and markings created.
 - Libby's Look trail has had substantial work on it already. Are there other areas that need work?
 - Ali will connect with Virginia re: grant work for trails work.
- Forestry update
 - Close to land use contract with neighbor for access (off Stone Hill Rd). To the town's benefit to cut timber this fall/winter. Current work plan with Stands 5, and potential access to Stands 4 and 6 at same timeframe. Approximately 100 acres in the plot. Reaching out to loggers for interest. Need to identify regulations around firewood with SelectBoard. Ethan will be marking the trees to cut. No current recreational trails within the acres to cut. High priority to get this done this year. Clear understanding of boundary lines. In the management of trees, need to consider the diversity of trees, wildlife habitat, etc. Typically logging season starts at the first of the year, so there is some time for paperwork and logistics. Will need to discuss community outreach when plan is ready.
- Community outreach update - follow-up on Sue Morse
 - Well attended - 20 people showed up for talk.
- FY 18-19 Budget
 - Current budget around \$500/year. Suggestion that Preston Pond Steward should have a budget line for minor issues. Some projects may come out of the conservation fund. To be responsible, consider level funding.
 - Steve made the motion to level fund the budget, Ali seconded, and motion passed (5-0).
- Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) Potholes Management Plan
 - Virginia shared some updates from SelectBoard discussion. School is looking to follow the town's lead while also wanting to address concerns re: parking, port-o-lets, access for emergency access. VRC looking to create a position for a river swimming steward to be more active for

management. Looking at signs, rules posted, etc. The purchase is not a done deal with the current landowner. This is all a preliminary draft at this point.

6. Other Business

- Next board meeting scheduled for: November 27, 2017
- Items for next agenda: possible meeting with Jens Hilke, review of Town Plan to-do list and individual CC to-do list, review of PPMP to do list (i.e. parking)
- Other communication:
 - No significant mail/communications at this time.

7. Adjournment

Steve made the motion “to close the meeting”, Virginia seconded, no further discussion, all in favor and motion passed (5-0) at 8:07 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

DRAFT