

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission
Minutes

Tuesday, June 9th, 2015, 6:30 PM
Present: Moe, Mary, Tom, Jen and Emily

1. Branliere Town Forest trail plan (hike/site visit was postponed due to weather):
 - a. Update on parcel identification:
 - i. Emily presented a preliminary map identifying abutting landowners to the Branliere town forest. There are many more landowners than had been anticipated.
 - ii. Emily will continue to work on the map and verify abutting landowners with the town. Mary will look into it as well.
 - b. Update on landowner permission form (guidance from VT Trails and Greenways Manual)
 - i. Tom sent a copy of landowner permission form to Keith, no word yet.
 - ii. CC reviewed some examples of permission forms.
2. Housekeeping
 - a. Accepted May minutes as written.
 - b. Tom was voted in officially as chair (moved by Moe, seconded by Jennifer)
 - c. Mary was voted on as vice-chair (moved by Moe, seconded by Jennifer)
 - d. Tom will contact John Fago about his interest in continuing to serve on the committee. (The CC has run into trouble having a quorum on occasion and would like to clarify our numbers to ensure we have a quorum for meetings.)
 - e. Project Spreadsheet
 - i. Updated table was not available (sorry!).
 - ii. CC discussed having this document as a google doc to enable editing and provide all members with the most up-to-date version. Jennifer will assist.
3. Planning Commission update on decision re: river setback determination
 - a. The PC has decided unanimously to pursue disallowing future development on mapped waterways as well as require a 50' setback from unmapped upland stream.
4. Revisit town culvert inventory
 - a. Is this info available for Bethel yet?
5. CC discussed several topics regarding Non-Native Invasive Species
 - a. Town mowing strategy
 - i. CC would like to get info from the selectboard about the town's mowing strategy to explore if there are ways that we could schedule mowing in a way to minimize the spread of invasive plants.
 - b. Cooperative Weed Management Association plans for Third Branch (and/or other subwatersheds)
 - i. CC briefly discussed the idea of forming a CWMA with neighboring towns to deal with non-native invasive plants (NNIP).

- ii. Raising awareness of NNIP is a focus for the CC. We should determine whether the NNIP info sheet we provided was handed out on Green Up Day.
 - c. EAB Preparedness
 - i. Emily attended the Randolph CC's May meeting to hear about their plans to host a community meeting on EAB preparedness. Representatives from the Brookfield and Braintree CCs were also present.
 - ii. Planning for the meeting is in the early stages but will likely be for an evening in late August or September. There will likely be time set aside for groups to break out by town and begin to develop plans.
 - iii. All towns will try to recruit participants (including key stakeholders) to attend the meeting.
- 6. Parks and public spaces Committee
 - a. Remains a committee separate from the CC.

Adjourned around 7:45pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30pm.