

**Town of Bethel, Vermont**  
**Conservation Commission**  
Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 6:30 PM

Present: Tom Warhol, Dave Stanley, Moe Brigham, Jen Schomp, Mary Floyd, Emily Miller

1. Housekeeping
  - a. Minutes approved (noting that there was an extraneous (e) present)
  - b. Project spreadsheet:
    - a. After review, CC has elected to go with the excel format. Jen will get this document from Tom and put it up on a Google Docs for easier viewing.
    - b. CC members will review the spreadsheet in its new form with Tom's additions, and provide comments.
2. Branliere Town Forest Trail Updates
  - a. Update on identifying and contacting landowners (Mary)
    - i. Robert Gaiko continues to be in favor of walking trails. He has spoken with other nearby landowners, including Mr. Noble and Mr. Winne, who are both open to the idea of trails on their property. None want motorized vehicles and are also undecided about nonmotorized wheeled traffic.
    - ii. It was decided that once we have more information and concrete plans for the trail, then we would contact landowners collectively.
  - b. Update on contact with John McClain, forester, re: updating forest management plan (Moe)
    - i. John McClain glanced over the management plan. Recommended that the county forester update the management plan.
    - ii. Tom will get in touch with Jon Bouton to find out about next steps
  - c. Update on collecting trail GPS coordinates (Tom, Emily)
    - i. Will collect coordinates prior to September meeting.
  - d. Project funding discussion
    - i. VT State Recreational Trails grant (Feb), Fields Pond Foundation (rolling deadline), Communities Caring for Tree Canopies
  - e. Other
    - i. Bridge crossing small stream at top of main Branliere trail – would we need any permits?
    - ii. Suggest to the Selectboard that we have the forest management plans updated for all Bethel town forests.
    - iii. Emily to look into how we get in touch with VYCC and find out how the process works to “reserve” them for future trail work.

3. State Government Municipal Day, September 9, 2015.
  - a. Tom and Jen will attend, for sure. Emily will consider.
  - b. The town can pay for the CC to attend.
  
4. Emerald Ash Borer workshop to be held by the Randolph Conservation Commission at VTC, September 21.
  - a. CC will publicize once we have details.
  - b. Emily will keep the CC in the loop and get flyers to distribute around town.
  
5. Forward Fest, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - a. Materials to focus on the Branliere forest trail.
  - b. Large scale topo map, survey to determine interest.

Adjourned 7:55pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30pm.