

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission
Minutes

Tuesday, September 8th, 2015, 6:30 PM

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

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Minutes accepted as revised.
 - b. Project spreadsheet.
 - a. We're resolving a few technical issues; everyone will look at it for next time.
2. Branliere Town Forest Trail Updates
 - a. Tom provided us with an update on his contact with Jon Bouton, re: updating forest management plan
 - i. Jon explained that although updating the plans is the responsibility of the county foresters, they don't have time/money. Jon doesn't manage any municipal forests in Windsor County, but his successor might. He suggested several consultants that might be able to develop plans. He also mentioned his supervisor, Nate Mckeen, as someone who might be able to decide that Bethel's municipal forest are currently underserved and worthy of a closer look.
 - ii. We are interested in updating the forest management plan, so Tom will reach out to contacts within VT Forests, Parks and Rec (including Nate Mckeen) about updating Bethel's plans in the next few months.
 - iii. Tom plans to contact the the AVCC listserve to ask how they've updated/maintained their forest management plans.
 - b. Update on collecting trail GPS coordinates. Still working on it.
 - c. Update on VYCC involvement in trail work.
 - i. Tom shared info gleaned from Mary Russ (of the White River Partnership who often works with VYCC crews). We learned that they usually get in touch in the fall to start the project process. Tom made contact, through Mary, with Keegan Tierney, Operations Director at VYCC, about the project. VYCC will potentially be able to help with trail design and construction.
 - ii. Emily shared the VYCC Work Project Proposal application from the VYCC website.
 - d. We might want to explore opportunities for Randolph Technical Career Center's Environmental Resource Management Program to participate with tree removal and/or trail work (Gerry Reymore is the contact for that program).
 - e. Young Writers Project town forest essay competition, deadline October 16th

- i. We'll get the word out about it in a low-key way and not go through the schools for now.
3. Emerald Ash Borer workshop to be held by the Randolph Conservation Commission at VTC, Monday, September 21.
 - a. EM to ask Abbie to put on town website, Tom will put on FPF, Jen will put on FB.
 - b. Several CC members to attend.
4. Forward Fest, Oct. 3rd.
 - a. Plan: Arrive around 9am, Jen and Moe will bring card tables, Tom will bring EAB materials. We'll all bring relevant materials, booklets, handouts. Emily will look into getting a map of the Branliere forest with the potential trail from TRORC.
5. Any other business
 - a. Question about ERAF and the town's adoption of river corridor bylaw language and find out where this issue stands – Tom will check Planning Commission minutes and ask Carla, if necessary, about where this stands.
 - b. Water quality of town wells – Jen has learned from a discussion with Mayor Louras of Rutland that there is a state level town water alert system (for events including boil notices). The CC would like to make town officials and the health officer aware of this info. The alert system info can be found at VTAlert.gov. The contact at the state level, should they have any questions, is Robert Schell, Deputy Director of the Vermont Division of Emergency Management.

Adjourned 8pm. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30pm.