

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, 9/14/21 6:30 PM
Bethel Town Hall

Present: Ferron Griffin, Lisa Campbell, Mark Heckmann, Mary Floyd, Eric Webb, who is interested in joining the Conservation Commission.

1. Minutes from 7/13/21 were reviewed and approved.
2. Carla's Meadow Update
 - a. Chris Fors, Danny Dover, and Ferron Griffin blazed a teardrop-shaped trail near the river on Sunday, Sept. 12th.
 - b. One landowner agreement remains to be obtained.
 - c. Mary harvested milkweed seeds from her property to spread among the newly planted trees for attracting monarch butterflies.
 - d. Mary obtained from Steve Libby a copy of the development rights, restrictions, and easement agreements with the Vermont River Conservancy since questions have come up regarding the property.
3. Forward Festival
 - a. Plans were discussed. Members will be available to answer questions and discuss accessibility to the Town Forests, Branliere and Quimby.
 - b. Bring a table and check with Barb Nickerson Saturday AM, Oct. 2nd for location at the Common.
 - c. Mary has asked Rebecca Fors to be present at the space with her students to exhibit their projects about how Bethel has changed.
4. CC Shelf at the Library
 - a. The shelf is ready to receive conservation related books; previously donated ones are available and we will add to the collection.
5. VOREC Grant
 - a. Mary attended the initial planning grant; Therese Kirby, town manager; select board members David Eddy and Gene Kraus, and Dietre Feeney were present.
 - b. Therese has written the letter of intent describing an ambitious plan to create more town-wide outdoor recreational opportunities, including use of town forests, buy-out properties, school and recreation areas, and Carla's Meadow. It is also proposed to create business opportunities such as a sports equipment business for Main Street and other business opportunities included in a day of outdoor recreation.
6. Bethel's For All Village Accessibility Plan(Better Connections) Grant
 - a. This project is working on the 1st step of the planning grant. An initial meeting was held to agree on procedures with Chris Sargent from DuBois and King as

administrator. Ferron has attended the meetings and said there would be a town walk-through soon to review accessibility, sidewalks, and public spaces.

7. Other business

- a. Ferron discussed the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation Grants intended to grow outdoor recreation businesses, participation, resources, and promote health and wellness from outdoor recreation.
- b. Mary reported communication from Steve Libby about the removal of the East Bethel Dam and communication from Mary Russ of the White River Partnership expressing their interest in helping with the VOREC grant, particularly concerning parking, signage, and gaining river access in the White River watershed areas.
- c. Lisa went to previous select board meeting to raise awareness of Round-up use at Peavine Park and clean-up issues under the River Street bridge. She asked for a sign similar to the one at Peavine for cleaning up dog waste and other garbage near the bridge.
- d. Mary relayed information on the upcoming AVCC Conservation Summit and forwarded information to members by email.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Floyd