

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016, 6:30 PM

Bethel Town Office

Present: Moe Brigham, Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Jennifer Schomp, Mark Heckman, Joann Wood, Lisa Campbell, Debbie Hatch, Rosalie Benson

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Minutes from March were reviewed and accepted.
 - b. We regretfully accept Moe's resignation from the CC. Moe is newly on the Selectboard and would like to avoid any potential conflict of interest.
2. General
 - a. Introduction of prospective members/interested individuals
 - b. Review of Vermont CC Statutes
3. Branliere Forest VT Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC) Grant Status
 - a. Jen and Mary gave a quick overview of the project and review of the project's status.
 - i. Phase I: maintenance and improvement of existing trail to vista, control of NNIP, possible removal of a few trees.
 - b. The CC is grateful to the town for finding money to cover all of the required \$4500 in matching funds for the VYCC application.
 - c. Contract must be paid down by July 1st
 - d. Next steps: waiting to hear from VYCC about approval and getting on their schedule. Jen will keep us posted.
 - i. Emily will likely hike with VYCC to look at the project area, Mark Heckman is willing to help out too.
 - e. Trail signs: VT Dept. of Health is trying to get info out about ticks and has signs available.
 - f. A solicitation letter will not be necessary at this time.
4. Non-native Invasives Plants (NNIP)
 - a. Money is available for one mowing. The town manager asked whether the CC might be interested in conducting an inventory to determine where to concentrate early mowing.
 - i. The CC does not have the resources to conduct the sort of inventory that would be useful.
 - ii. In general, the CC recommends mowing areas without NNIP first and then moving to areas with NNIP.
 - iii. Could the town provide a rough map of areas to be mowed this summer and also clarify whether the purpose of mowing is NNIP-control or safety.
 - b. Emily will send the NNIP-awareness flyer we came up with last year to the coordinator of green-up day.
5. Other business

- a. Upcoming workshop for garden organizers with Charlie Nardozzi (North Branch Nature Center).
- b. "Dog days of solar", 8/6/16
 - i. CC would like to explore the idea of participating.

Meeting adjourned around 8:15pm.

Next meeting will be on May 10th at the town office.