

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 5/11/21 6:30 PM
Meeting in the Town Hall

Meeting brought to order at 6:35pm

Present: Emily Miller, Ferron Griffin, Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Mark Heckman,
Danny Dover, Chris Fors

1. Minutes: Minutes from 4/13/21 were reviewed and approved.
2. Carla's Meadow Update
 - a. [Carla's Meadow Planning document](#)
 - b. We are waiting to hear about next steps for landowner agreements.
 - c. A 6th grade group at WRVMS has built bluebird houses. We'll finish up some research to determine the best place to put them and Mark will help place them in Carla's Meadow.
3. Quimby Town Forest update - Ferron Griffin
 - a. [Quimby Town Forest Timeline](#)
 - b. Potential timber sale
 - i. Ferron met with AJ Follensbee and Allen Patton. Everyone agrees that access would be easiest from Woodland Rd.
 - ii. Estimated that the timber harvest might yield \$8-10,000. And this would be designated to the Conservation Commission for trails.
 - iii. Allen Patton will provide an estimate of how much road improvements would cost.
 - c. Mary shared some articles or pieces about Mary Quimby from contemporary papers.
 - d. We continued our discussion about proforestation and forest management in general. We want to be good stewards of the land and our resources. (Proforestation encourages letting portions of the forest to grow to maturation to maximize carbon sequestration.)
 - i. Vermont has a climate forester, Dr. Alexandra Kosiba. We'd like to reach out to her to see if she can provide any information and/or guidance. Danny will work on that.
 - e. The Conservation Commission found all but the northern boundary on a hike on 5/8. We plan to finish the boundary and find the corners, 6/5 at 9am at the end of Woodland Rd.
4. Camp Brook Forest
 - a. Members of the Class 4 and Conservation Commission found and walked the ancient road that travels through the forest recently.
 - b. Potential access
 - i. It is agreed that access to the forest in general would be best from the Dunham Rd. end. The other end of the class 4 road is in very rough shape.

- ii. We need to be very thoughtful about if/how best to re-establish access. The ancient road goes right through the yard of a house on Dunham.
 - iii. Next steps: Talk with the Class 4 Committee about approaching the Selectboard to get approval to reach out to the landowner where the right of way is currently and come to an agreement about a new location.
- 5. Better Connections Grant update
 - a. They are in the process of forming the steering committee - stay tuned for more information.
- 6. Any other business to come before the committee.
 - a. We briefly discussed the recently released and very comprehensive social media policy of the town.
 - i. Some highlights:
 - 1. All sites should be information sources only, not places for conversation.
 - 2. All CC posts will need to be approved by the committee.
 - ii. At our next meeting we might consider approval reposting particular sites (eg. White River Partnership, Vermont Woodlands, etc.).
 - b. Green-up Day at Peavine Park went well with the Rotary's help.
 - c. Forward Fest will be 10/2. We'll be thinking of what information the Conservation Commission would like to share..

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 6/8/21, 6:30pm in the Conference room at the Town Hall.