

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2016, 6:30 PM

Bethel Town Office

Present: Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Mark Heckman, Chuck Davis, Jennifer Schomp, 5 members of the VYCC crew working on the Branliere project, Jared Pendak (Valley News)

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Minutes from June were reviewed and accepted.
2. Members
 - a. Chuck Davis has been officially appointed to the CC.
 - b. Mary and Emily have been reappointed for 2-year terms.
3. Branliere Forest trail project with the VT Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC)
 - a. Introductions of the VYCC crew
 - b. Brief update of the project from the crew: The work is going well and quickly (they're working 10 hour days and will wrap up on Thursday). They have been building drains to mitigate water drainage, the first switchback is largely complete, they've done some invasive plant control.
 - c. Details about the invasive plant control of barberry, chervil.
 - i. Will need contractor bags to gather up, Jennifer will drop it off bags at the post.
 - ii. VYCC will leave the plants in contractor bags at the foot of the trail.
 - iii. Emily will do some research into disposal.
 - d. Sign post
 - i. Mark procured the sign post and the crew will place it tomorrow or the next day.
 - e. Emily and Chuck plan to walk up to the site with Jared (from the Valley News) on 7/13/16. Meet at 11am at the Town Office.
 - f. Jen and Mark will submit expenses incurred for the post and contractor bags to the town for reimbursements.
 - g. Signage for Branliere
 - i. "Branliere Forest"
 - ii. Map of trail - Emily will talk with someone about creating a map for us.
4. Other business
 - a. Bethel Operators Manual
 - i. Mary will take care of it.
 - b. Website for the Conservation Commission
 - i. Chuck is willing to create a website for the CC.
 - ii. Mary will present the concept of a CC website to the Selectboard for approval before further work.

- c. State-owned field just downstream of Locust Creek on 107/12 is not being farmed and has gone fallow. Japanese knotweed is now taking over the field. The CC discussed whether we should or could manage it to prevent the knotweed from taking over.
 - i. First step is to determine who owns the property and if a management plan exists for the field.

Meeting adjourned around 8:15pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 9th at the town office.