

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2016, 6:30 PM

Bethel Town Office

Present: Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Mark Heckman, Chuck Davis

1. Housekeeping
 - a. Minutes from July were reviewed and accepted.
2. Branliere Forest trail project
 - a. Review of the project
 - i. VYCC did a great job.
 - ii. Recent windstorm brought a lot of trees down and Chuck cleared the trail from the blow-downs.
 - iii. The CC needs to determine who is responsible for maintaining the road below to the water tower (the town? The CC?). It's very steep and will continue to experience some wash out.
 - b. Trail sign and post
 - i. Mark will get in touch on behalf of the CC with the landowner on whose property the post was placed to determine if we need to remove the 4x4 post from where it is currently placed (Mary will provide Mark with his information).
 - ii. The CC will promptly remove the post if the landowner needs us to.
 - iii. Emily is working on a map.
 - iv. Emily and Mark will bring pictures of sign designs for the trail sign to the September meeting.
 - c. Outreach letter to adjacent landowners to inform and involve them in the trail.
 - i. Chuck will draft a letter to bring to the next CC meeting.
3. Website
 - a. Can the CC be listed on the sidebar on the town homepage (along with Bethel Council on the Arts, Forward Fest, Historical Society for example) rather than several layers down under the government heading?
 - b. Information for the website
 - i. Deed from Branliere will be a good starting point.
 - ii. Mary will provide Chuck with material to go on the website.
4. Review public meeting rule
 - a. The CC reviewed information regarding open meetings. In particular, the CC discussed rules regarding group emails.
 - b. The CC will avoid group emails in the future except for distributions of agendas, minutes and materials for discussion.
5. Locust Creek/107 area field

- a. Field in question is owned by the VT Fish and Wildlife.
 - b. Mark has made contact with VTF&W about the management of the field.
 - c. Mark will follow-up on an email received by the town about the field from John Austin as well as Ryan and Holly Knox from the state.
6. Forward Festival (Oct. 1st) display
 - a. The CC will have a table.
 - b. Chuck is willing to create a poster about Branliere.
7. Invite forester for September or October meeting
 - a. Tabled to a later meeting.
8. Other business
 - a. Mary is going to the VT Agency of Natural Resources meeting on September 9th and will report back.
 - b. Mark inquired about the status of the Ancient Roads/Class 4 Roads Committee. No one knew anything about its status.

Meeting adjourned around 8:05pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 8th at the town office.