

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 8/11/20 6:00 PM
Peavine Park Gazebo

Meeting brought to order at 6:05pm

Present: Emily Miller, Ferron Griffin, Danny Dover, Mark Heckmann, Mary Floyd,
Chris Fors, Steve Libby, Therese Kirby

1. Minutes: Minutes from 7/14/20 were reviewed and approved.
2. Finalizing plans for 428 Pleasant Street Property. With Steve Libby, Executive Director, Vermont River Conservancy.
 - a. Overview of what has happened. Covid-19 has slowed down the process, but things are still on track. Closing might happen in September.
 - b. Solution to former Rip-rap Agreement. The town needs to relinquish the right to install rip-rap before this can go forward. The town is prepared to do this. This is the last step before things can be closed on.
 - c. Reviewed the Interim Management Plan. We reviewed the document and found that it looked good overall. We suggested a few places in the document where “may” should be substituted for “will” to make things more flexible.
 - d. Reviewed the Final draft of Conservation Easement. This is what will be in place forever. We reviewed the document and found that it looked good.
 - e. We plan to approach the landowner to the north of the property again to see if he might be interested in pursuing a similar easement.
 - f. In the future, if we wanted to establish a name, trails, parking areas, etc., we would bring a proposal to the selectboard.
3. Report on 7/16 Quimby Forest Hike
 - a. Preliminary discussion about AJ’s draft report and our hike on 7/16.
 - b. There is potential for recreational use, and a timber harvest.
4. Camp Brook Forest
 - a. Presentation of possible land management planning process developed for Camp Brook Forest by Chris Fors.
 - i. Definition and discussion about land use planning, GIS, land analysis and evaluation.
 - ii. Reviewed proposed first steps (applicable to all of the town properties, but the one we looked at is specific to Camp Brook Town Forest):
 1. Ground truth property boundary to the extent possible.
 2. GEO locate TH 98 to the extent possible.
 3. Identify and meet with abutters.
 4. Create ANR Natural Resources Project File and give access to CC and other interested parties.

- iii. At our next meeting we will pick a date to start working through this.
 - b. Debby and Ken Hatch have agreed to inventory wetland plants in Camp Brook Forest. (reported by Mary Floyd)
- 5. Any other business to come before the Commission
 - a. Therese brought to us an issue of erosion on Gilead Brook Rd., just above Winterberry Rd. We suggested that the landowners might contact the White River Partnership to look into potential ways to stabilize the bank.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 9/8/20 at **6:30pm at the Town Hall** (please note the change in time and location).