

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2016, 6:30 PM
Bethel Town Office

Meeting brought to order at 6:35 pm

Present: Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Chuck Davis, Emily Miller, Katie O'Neill,
Ferron Griffin

1. Minutes: Minutes from October were reviewed and accepted with one minor edit.
2. Confirm meeting date
 - a. The CC has changed our meeting dates to be the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We will continue to meet at 6:30pm at the Town Offices on those days.
3. Prospective members, Katie O'Neill and Ferron Griffin, introduced themselves and spoke a little about their backgrounds.
4. Katie O'Neill's proposals from Better Block discussions
 - a. Better Block shared some brainstorming they had done about ways to make our natural resources are more prominent part of Bethel. Ideas included providing maps about trails, parks, etc. and making the forest and river an integrated part of the Bethel experience.
 - b. The CC appreciates the interest and is happy to collaborate with the folks from Better Block.
5. Emerald Ash Borer plan
 - a. To be discussed in December.
6. Grant funding possibilities/possible projects/budgeting for 2017
 - a. Chuck will kick-start a budget conservation commission by providing \$1000 in two installments (both by early January). Thank you, Chuck!
 - b. The CC would like to request \$2500 for a budget for the coming year. Potential uses include, but are not limited to, signage, trail maintenance, an EAB plan, forest management plans, non-native invasive plants inventory/control, conferences, marketing and maps.

7. Other business

- a. The CC discussed the need for a formal policy to be put in place noting the responsibilities of the town to maintain the lower part of the trail (to the water tower).
- b. Letter to landowners adjacent to Branliere.
 - i. Do we need to request prior approval from the Selectboard before we send out the letter to landowners adjacent to the Branliere Forest?
 - ii. Include map in the letter.
 - iii. Add CC member names to the bottom.
- c. Chuck asked for us to think about a formal project on invasive plants for the coming year.
 - i. Would like to invite a state expert to come educate the CC before we begin the effort to educate the broader public.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 12/14 at 6:30pm at the town office.