

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 11/9/21 6:30 PM
Meeting in the Town Offices

Meeting brought to order at 6:35pm

Present: Emily Miller, Ferron Griffin, Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Mark Heckman,
Danny Dover, Mary Pavone, Chris Fors, Rebecca Stone, Eric Webb

1. Minutes: Minutes from 10/12/21 were reviewed and accepted.
2. VT Climate Policy
 - a. Some discussion about climate change and the town's recent climate policy discussion.
3. Vorec Grant update (VT Outdoor Recreation Economy Collaborative)
 - a. Rebecca gave us an overview of the grant. This Vorec grant is a huge opportunity (big pot of money this round). We can apply up to \$500k. Can apply for lots of different related things.
Due at the end of November.
 - b. Vorec is looking to primarily support natural systems, local economies and associated businesses. Particularly interested in improving inclusion.
 - c. A different grant that the town has been awarded, Bethel for All, is creating an accessibility plan for our town. There's also a stormwater planning portion of that grant. Bethel for All can inform the Vorec application.
 - d. Chris gave us an overview of the trails and proposed trails near the school.
 - e. Rebecca shared some of the ideas that have been proposed so far.
4. Peavine Park - Vorec grant "wish List", Bee the Change pollinator patch
 - a. Touched base about some options for Peavine for the Vorec grant application.
 - b. We will need to get approval from the Selectboard to move forward in the spring for the Bee the Change pollinator patch. Ferron, Lisa and Mark will sort out the proposed location.
5. Bethel Re-Zoning - Planning Comm meeting
 - a. The proposed re-zoning is to change some of the areas that are currently zoned as rural areas into medium density zoning.
 - b. The Conservation Commission has concerns that this would encourage dispersed development and cause further habitat fragmentation, breaking up important corridors for wildlife.
6. Climate Forester Meeting Setup
 - a. we will discuss this next time
7. Any other business to come before the committee

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 12/14/21, 6:30pm at the Town Offices.