

Town of Bethel, Vermont  
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 8/16/22 6:30 PM  
Peavine Park

Meeting brought to order at 6:30pm

Present: Emily Miller, Ferron Griffin, Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Danny Dover

1. Minutes: Minutes from the July meeting were not available. We will review them next time.
2. Peavine Park update
  - a. The water fountain and benches need a little cleaning. We will look into the best way to do that and proceed.
  - b. We discussed the vandalism that has occurred at the park.
  - c. We looked at the trees that have been girdled by weed wacking and discussed some strategies to address it.
  - d. Potential work session at Peavine on Monday, 8/22, 4pm.
3. VOREC update
  - a. The grant monies continue to be delayed. The working seasons will be 2023 and 2024.
4. Forward Fest (9/24-25)
  - a. Bethel 4 All looking to partner with the CC to sort out a "Find Bethel's Green Links Challenge". Proposal:
    - i. Challenge to start at Forward Fest. Redeem your completed card to the Town Offices by 10/14 (pending agreement from the Town Office crew).
    - ii. Selfies with each place.
    - iii. Locations: Marsh Meadow, Fortitude, Bandshell, waterfall park, sandwich shop park, Peavine, Richardson's park, Carla's Meadow. Branliere?
    - iv. Reward for those who complete the challenge (maybe a ball cap).
  - b. Looked at an overview of Forward Fest activities.
5. Planning Commission Update
  - a. It appears that the planning commission hopes to modify the unified bylaws to divide all zones in half to allow for higher density housing.
  - b. The CC is very concerned about how doing this across the board will impact habitat connectivity and conservation efforts. We acknowledge that many things have probably been considered, but we wonder if there may be a better way to proceed. We would like to encourage development closer to town, but not uniformly throughout the town.
  - c. We will get in touch with some experts in the state and consider this against our next meeting.
6. Any other business
  - a. Danny introduced the idea of creating a new trail that would go just above the single-lane bridge near Peavine up to the falls.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 9/13/22, 6:30pm at the Town office.