

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 9/13/22 6:30 PM
Town Offices

Meeting brought to order at 6:30pm

Present: Emily Miller, Ferron Griffin, Mary Floyd, Lisa Campbell, Mark Heckman, Chris Fors

1. Minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were approved.
2. Peavine Park update
 - a. Mulch was spread and cleaned up the water fountain
 - b. No updates on the signage yet.
3. 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”.
 - b. Mary Lacy will join our table.
 - c. Benches for the pocket park may happen if Rebecca Stone pulls things together.
 - d. Items to have at the table: map of green space, what the CC has been up to, possible survey.
4. Planning Commission Update
 - a. It appears that the planning commission hopes to modify the unified bylaws.
 - b. The CC continues to be concerned about how potential changes to the unified bylaws may impact habitat connectivity and conservation efforts. The CC is particularly concerned about any changes to the Rural Development District and Resource Conservation Districts. We would be more comfortable if there was an analysis of high value natural resources to inform the policy making process. Natural resources to be considered may include prime ag soils, prime timber resources, wildlife habitat and wildlife migration corridors, and highly sensitive resource areas such as steep slopes and wetlands.
5. Any other business
 - a. VOREC update - There is a little movement on this. The agreement between the state and the recipients will be updated at the end of October, and it looks like things will be ready to roll for next summer.
 - b. Tiny Grant- the bird watching didn’t happen at the rec center. Likely will happen through the school.
 - c. WRP is planning to do some fundraising this winter for the River St. access and Peavine Park.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 10/11/22, 6:30pm at the Town office.