

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 1/11/17, 6:30 PM
Town Office

Meeting brought to order at 6:50pm

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

1. Minutes: Minutes from December were reviewed and accepted.
2. Election of officers
 - a. Mary was reelected as chair.
 - b. Lisa was elected as vice chair.
 - c. Emily was reelected as chair.
 - d. Terms for all members were discussed, clarified and will be shared with the town.
3. Discussion about our last meeting and discussion with Pieter van Loom, VT Land Trust. Pieter spoke with us about non-native invasive plants (NNIP).
 - a. The CC is very appreciative of Pieter sharing his knowledge and experience.
 - b. Next steps?
 - i. BU class with Pieter van Loom as co-host (and possibly VT Invasives head Elisabeth Spinney?), Ferron and Emily are happy to help. Chuck will get submit something to BU and get in touch with Pieter.
 - ii. Potential projects or focus areas: Branliere, Peavine Park.
4. Other business
 - a. DRB's meeting about the proposed Dollar Store across from the school on Rte. 12.
 - i. Chuck attended and reported out to the CC.
 - ii. Chuck told us that he shared some thoughts at the DRB meeting from the perspective of the CC about the precarious location of the store in the river corridor and the increasingly unpredictable weather.
 - iii. Recognizing the importance of the wetlands and river corridor to increasing flood resiliency in the town. The CC is interested in

investigating a way to facilitate the purchase of the parcel by the town. Emily will look into this.

- b. Hemp as a biofuel
 - i. Katie spoke with us about alternative energy sources and biofuel.
 - ii. Hemp is a better biofuel source (doesn't deplete the soil the way corn does), doesn't require pesticides or herbicides, not GMO.
 - iii. Katie will bring us more information and the CC will consider a possible role.

- c. CC website
 - i. The CC will discuss making updates to the website as a part of our regular meeting agenda.
 - ii. Updates for this month.
 - 1. New members
 - 2. BU class

- d. Branliere landowner letters
 - i. Mary has heard from two landowners so far.

- e. Town report
 - i. The CC reviewed a blurb that Mary had written and Chuck shared photos that he sent for the report.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8pm. Next meeting will be Wednesday, 2/8/17 at 6:30pm at the town office.