

Bethel Conservation Commission Minutes – 5/12/15

Present Tom Warhol, Moe Brigham, Emily Miller, Lisa Campbell

Action on Minutes minutes from April were approved as written.

Business

- Change of chair
 - Tom has offered to serve as chair of the CC; Mary will continue to serve on the CC as vice chair.
- Planning Commission Public Forum, 4-15-15, re: river setback
 - Emily and Mary attended on behalf of the CC;
 - Generally there seemed to be support for the adoption of this additional layer of protection. Good discussions were had.
- Branliere Forest - trail plans
 - We reviewed the 2011 grant application that Tom acquired;
 - The VT Trails and Greenways Manual may be a good resource;
 - Reviewed some potential funding options:
 - the VT FPR Mini-grant for Recreational Trails Program (due 5/22) and the mini grants through the Assoc of Vermont Conservation Districts (due 5/15). We decided that both of these deadlines are too close and/or are not good fits at this point. We will keep them in mind for the future.
 - fall funding remains a possibility.
 - Next steps:
 - Tom will present landowner agreements to the town for their review;
 - Emily will look at parcel data and figure out landowners that might be involved or affected by the project;
 - We plan to do a site visit during our next meeting, June 9th. Meet at the town offices and bring your hiking shoes.
- Parks and Public Spaces Committee update
 - Lisa reported that the garden beds taken care of for now;
 - The relationship between the Parks and Public Spaces Committee and the Conservation Commission is not entirely clear at this point. We'll revisit this at our next meeting following review of the Selectboard's discussion on this matter.
 - Lisa shared that she has been approached by some residents that are concerned about the lack of a railing on the stairs that VYCC constructed last summer. Would it be possible and wise to install a railing? Lisa will ask the town, Emily will ask VYCC.
- BCC Progress Summary

- The CC reviewed a draft version of a Progress Summary document (ideally this will help us track accomplishments, anticipate next steps and generally track the progress of CC projects).
- Emily will incorporate the suggested changes before the June meeting.

- WRP plantings of buyout properties
 - Emily gave an update on the plantings at the buyout properties. Due to factors outside the control of WRP, these plantings will not happen this spring.

Adjourned at 8:20pm