

Bethel Conservation Commission Minutes – 9/9/14

Present Mary Floyd, Moe Brigham, Tom Warhol, Jennifer Schomp, Mary Russ (White River Partnership)

Action on Minutes Minutes from 8/12/14 were approved.

Business

- Mary Russ introduced a Vermont Law School organized river clean-up slated for September 27th 2:30-4 from Bethel to Sharon. Volunteers will gather riverside debris and transfer to the Vermont Law School for disposal.
 - Tom mentioned that a culvert had come loose and deposited in Gilead Brook, and discussion of cleanup efforts targeted around Peavine Park and bridge was discussed.
 - Mary Russ offered that the CC could facilitate an associated local cleanup event. She will prepare signup sheet and flyer for distribution at Forward Fest to publicize the event.
- Planning for Conservation Commission participation in Bethel Forward Festival September 20, 9a-3p was discussed.
 - Mary Russ will lend WRP buyout property maps for display. Emily and Mary (Floyd) will arrange to gather them to bring to the Fest.
 - It was decided to set up a tent in the public parking lot for this year's Fest rather than an indoor presentation. Content will include buyout property maps for viewing, Emerald Ash Borer information provided by Tom, and surveys/signup sheets for various projects and interests related to conservation by Jennifer and Mary. Mary Floyd will try to borrow a tent for use, and will secure three parking spaces for the CC. Three tables will be needed: two for maps and one for Mary and Jennifer's buyout/conservation related volunteer opportunity surveys and Tom's Emerald Ash Borer literature.
 - Moe, Jennifer, Mary and Tom will set up of CC display will begin at 8:30 am (Vendors need to be set up by 9).
- Mary Floyd reported that the Parks & Public Spaces Committee had notified the Selectboard that they are considering dissolving due to inadequate attendance for meetings.
 - It was decided that Mary Floyd would invite members of the Parks and Public Spaces Committee to the October 14th meeting of the CC to discuss various possible options to continue to support their projects.
 - Jennifer will build out the Forward Fest survey/signup sheets to include opportunities for interested parties to sign up for Natural Resources/Parks & Public Spaces related projects.
- It was decided to invite interested Branliere Town Forest recreation opportunity development project to the November CC meeting. Abutting landowners and other interested parties mentioned include Rick Benson (project lead), Jennifer Schomp, Bob Noble, Robert Geicko, Vanessa Brown,

and there may be more parties to consider. The CC will also publicize this November 11th meeting topic beyond just the meeting agenda posting on the town website.

- Other business
 - Tom reported that the Town Forest Summit hosted by the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions is slated for September 27th. The Annual meeting of the Association is November 1st. The CC will select at least one a representative to attend each event.
 - Jennifer mentioned that the Town of Fairhaven recently had a boil water notice and she was reviewing again the State guidelines on notification of residents in the event of water quality issues. She'll attend one of the upcoming Selectboard meetings to check in and confirm via Other Business the actions and responsible parties for the procedures in light of the recent change in town management staff.

Next Meeting October 14th will be next meeting in Town Offices.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 pm