

Bethel Conservation Commission Minutes – 9/10/13

Present Mary Floyd, Dave Stanley, Moe Brigham, Tom Warhol, Emily Miller and Jen Schomp at the Town Offices.

Action on Minutes approved minutes from 8/15/13 meeting.

Old Business

March Meadow Rd. Property

- discussed the telephone pole/power line still present on-site. Power line is dead, but a question was raised for VT Housing Conservation Board (Karen Foley?): could it be re-activated or is it prohibited use?
- signage: Dave suggested a simple sign posted along Beaver Meadow Rd. (Sharon/Norwich) that might be a potential model.
- trash (Dave will check and follow up with Scout master).

Bethel Buyout Properties

- Discussion of the White River Partnership's potential role. Emily will contact Mary Russ, Executive Director of WRP, about coming to one of our next meetings.
- The group identified some of the other Bethel buyouts, Mary Floyd will get the complete list of Bethel buyouts from Del so we can identify other potential uses.

New Business

VT ANR's White River Tactical Basin Plan

- Looked over VT ANR's White River Tactical Basin Plan Outline (an outline created by Mary Floyd from the Tactical Basin Plan document). Talked generally about many of the items highlighted in the plan (E.coli levels/riparian buffers, skidder bridges, etc.).
- Mary would like to have Jim Ryan come speak about the Basin Plan and how it pertains to Bethel specifically.

Future plans of the Conservation Commission:

- Discussion occurred about what information we need to gather as a group so that we can make informed decisions in the future. Some suggestions are:
 - Get a list of buyouts so the rest of us can get up to speed (Mary will get this from Del).
 - Acquire maps: VT Significant Wetlands map (VSWI) (TRORC a good resource for this).
 - Learn more about the Better Backroads program here and how we can support it in Bethel (Emily will look into this).
 - Acquire an inventory of town forest land from planning commission (Mary).
- Other suggested actions:

- Identify outbreaks of new invasive species. Work with the town about mowing later, etc.
- Look into potential community garden spaces.

Meeting adjourned around 7:55pm.

Next meeting will be on October 8 at 6:30pm at Town Office.