

Bethel Conservation Commission Minutes – 10/14/14

Present Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Tom Warhol, Dave Stanley, Jennifer Schomp, Mary Russ (White River Partnership)

Action on Minutes minutes from September were approved.

Business

- Mary Russ, (White River Partnership) provided us with an update on the buyout property improvement grant:
 - Bethel did receive the grant to cover the costs of designing improvements/plantings for 3 of the buyout properties;
 - Mary Floyd reiterated the need to continue to involve neighbors and others in this planning process and we discussed some ways to do this (community meeting to get feedback on the design, site visit);
 - Next steps in the process: Mary Russ will talk with Keith Arlund and the town, an RFP will be posted in the Herald;
 - Comments about the RFP itself: specify the use of native species in replants for all projects and consider adding more specific language about the “large wood structure” to be constructed on the upstream end of the Marsh Meadows property.

- Forward Fest
 - Went well;
 - Next year the CC should consider keeping a log of people with whom we had contact during the festival and their concerns rather than try to get people to complete surveys (seems like there’s not enough time for this at the event).

- Committee of Parks and Public Places
 - They are seeking help with plantings and projects;
 - CC is happy to be a point of contact and possibly help rally volunteers (some folks have expressed interest in helping with related gardening projects and might be able to direct them to the Parks and Public Places).

- VT Association of Conservation Commissions Summit on November 1st in Montpelier
 - Mary, Tom, Jen (and possibly Moe) expressed interest in attending;
 - Mary will follow up with the town to see about getting the registration fee covered.

- Town Forest Project (Branliere Town Forest)
 - 50th anniversary of the donation of the land to the town will be in 2016;
 - There is definitely interest within the CC in creating/improving trails, etc. within the forest;
 - Tom will contact Robert Gaiko to get more learn more about his interest and goals for the any potential project;
 - Tom will contact Jon Bouton about any documentation he has on the Branliere forest;

- Mary will contact Rick Benson to see if we can take another look at the documentation he has.
- CC will look over gathered documents during the November meeting and hopes to invite adjacent landowners, etc. to a subsequent meeting.

- Town Plan
 - Mary provided everyone with copies of the new Town Plan for a little light reading;
 - We will go through the plan in detail at a later meeting.

- Culvert replacement on Gilead Brook Road
 - We discussed the new box culvert that was recently installed on Gilead Brook Rd. in the vicinity of MacIntosh Hill;
 - The new culvert appears to be aligned with the upstream portion of the stream, but the angle is such that the flow now seems to be pointed directly at a home situated between Gilead Brook and Gilead Brook Rd and appears to put this home at greater risk;
 - The CC would appreciate the opportunity to comment on future culvert replacement projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Next meeting will be November 11th, at 6:30pm.