

Submitted Draft Meeting Summary 12.18.17

PRESENT: Rebecca Ryan (Co-Chair), Sheri Lynn (Co-Chair), Maggie Mae Anderson, JB Bryan, Darlene Palola, Guthrie Smith, Jenna Koloski & Jeannette Segale

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Bald

CLERK: Sheri Lynn took minutes in the absence of the clerk.

**Call to Order:** 7 pm: meeting called by Rebecca. Guthrie motioned to accept the minutes with Rebecca's edits. Darlene seconded the motion. The meeting minutes approved by all 8 members.

**Public Comment: None**

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**Budget:**

- Reviewed the budget from the Select Board. Barbara Elliot asked the HCC to discuss the 18-19 budget and let her know if HCC wanted to discuss it at the 12.18 SB meeting. Written comments can be submitted
- There were no concerns about the budget.
- **ACTION:** Rebecca will contact Barbara that the HCC has no comments for the 18-19 budget proposal

**Clerk Position:**

- Natalie had planned to attend to take minutes but notified Rebecca and Sheri that she could not.
- Maggie Mae said the Sarah Jane could not take on the clerk role part time
- Sheri suggested we try recording the meeting when Natalie is not able to attend so that she could transcript.
- **ACTION:** Sheri will check with Natalie about transcription from a recording when she cannot attend. If she is willing to do this, Sheri will follow up with Barbara Elliot to confirm this is acceptable to public meeting rules. Sheri will let Rebecca know if this does not work out so Rebecca can post on the job description on front porch forum if this is not going to be a solution.

**Invasive Species:**

- Mike Bald presented information about his work, invasive control and management and how the spring workshop can be structured.
- Possible invasive to address and locations:
  - Japanese knot weed behind the town buildings.
  - Wild Parsnip: there is a lot of this but also safety issues.
  - Japanese Bar Berry
  - Honeysuckle
  - Wild Chervil – some along the road mixed with wild parsnips

- Mike recommended HCC think about where invasive grow, the traffic and impact.
- What about mowing wild parsnip?
  - Cut first where the sun exposes the roadway.
  - Mow with control pulls like near utility poles. Safety concerns with poison ivy and transferring seeds to other areas.
  - Prioritize important places like where kids play or high traffic like the Post Office or Town Recreation/Park areas.
- Should we hire a mowing company? Could still spread the seed from one community to another.
- Workshop details: Full Day workshop split up into 3 or 4 hours sessions. One in the morning and one in the afternoon.
- Workshop date: Did not decide on this but looking at April or early may.
- **ACTION:** Discuss locations and workshop dates in January. Maggie Mae will continue to communicate with Mike about the dates.

### **Town Forest Recreation Community Assistance Planning Grant Project:**

- Jenna reported that the steering committee met and she attended the summit to find out about the process.
- Timeline:
  - Looking at January 16 or 13 for a Community Forum. The consultants S & E Group will meet with the steering committee first followed by a public visioning session/open house.
  - Feb – May: the SE Group drafts the plan based on the Community Forum input
  - Initial presentation of the work plan in the spring
  - Final plan summer/fall
- The Steering Committee talked about outreach at the first meeting. Jenna asked the HCC members to help by direct contact with people they know. Jeannette mentioned connecting with the Camels Hump Nordic Ski Association that has a list serv. Darlene mentioned the senior citizens in town. There will be materials and talking points available from SE group to use to promote the Community Forum. The Huntington Historical and Community Trust may be able to help. A postcard to households is another way to get the word out.
- **ACTION:** Jenna will start a Google Document that the HCC members and Steering Committee can use to indicate who and how to engage groups and individuals in town to attend the Community Forum. Jenna will check about costs for post card to household.

### **Library Request to Co-sponsor Film:**

- Jeannette said that Anne Dannenberg e-mailed HCC and the Energy Commission a request to co-sponsor the showing of a film the Tree Project the library purchased. It focuses on global warming and a call to action to plant trees.
- What about adopting an author and starting a book club to read up on the issue before the movie? Build up interest in the topic. Film could be shown at the school.
- **Motion:** Jeannette made a motion for the HCC to annually adopt a book or author on a subject recommended by the Library. Rebecca seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- **Action:** Jeannette will let Anne know HCC is interested in co-sponsoring the film in the fall.

### **Storm Water Management:**

- Darlene is interested in working on a workshop around driveways. She has reached out to the Friends of Winooski.
- Darlene said that we can look into protection Cobb Brook from development.
- **ACTION:** Darlene will follow up with Karen Bates to attend the February HCC meeting to discuss protection of Cobb Brook from Development.

### **Conservation Fund Application Process:**

- Reviewed briefly the outcome of the last application from Friends of Gillett Pond and the Richmond Land Trust. The SB opted to fund it at \$75,000. The HCC had recommended \$50,000 and the original request was \$100,000. What is the purpose of the HCC review of application when the SB decision is different from the recommendations? It is part of checks and balances. It raised community engagement in the process about the conservation funds.
- Jenna and Sheri had not had time to research how the process worked in other towns.
- Did not have enough time to discuss. Put on the January agenda.

### **Annual Report:**

- Darlene will write on storm water project completion. Jenna about the grant project for the planning of the Town Forest efforts Sheri will write on the conservation fund applications. Jeannette and Maggie Mae will write on invasive workshop and the amphibians program at the school respectively.
- **Action:** Send Guthrie the sessions to edit by December 31. It is due to the town by January 12 for the Town Report.

### **Agenda Items for January 11, 2018**

- Invasive workshop date and location
- Conservation Fund Application: Process Improvements
- Update on the Community Forum for the Town Forest and Recreation Planning Grant Project
- Maple Sugar Open House