

RECEIVED  
FOR RECORD  
DATE

*[Signature]*  
March 12, 2018



### Huntington Conservation Commission Minutes 2/8/2018

- Location: Huntington Library
- Present: Sherri Lynn-cochair, Rebecca Ryan- cochair, Darlene Paola, JB Bryan, Guthrie Smith, Maggie Mae Anderson. Absent: Jenna Koloski
- Meeting Called to order 7:02 Sherri Lynn
- Motion to approve December minutes: Segale, seconded by Bryan, all in favor.
- Mail: none

### Cobb Brook Discussion: Karen Bates Watershed Coordinator DEC

Karen helps to identify waterways in Northern Vermont in need of protection.

Options for Cobb Brook area are:

1. Buy conservation easement.
2. Set management goal; setting protection classification. Swimming, boating, fishing etc. and prioritize.
3. Outstanding Resource Water

### Discussed option #2: Determine protection Classification

- Classification B1 B2, A, A1: above 2500 feet is A1; meaning natural condition.
- Work at keeping water at current classification; not degrading.
- Could set a B1 for swimming, fishing, or aquatic life: Helps if people know about our brook trout population, and a great way to protect water resources.
- B1 is almost natural conditions. If it looks like a B1 stream the agency is interested and will study the area for 2 years. Cobb Brook doesn't meet B1 conditions.
- Karen will request to have Cobb Brook monitored again. Currently Cobb is a B2, as are the majority of waterways in Vermont. Karen will ask if it has ever been monitored for fishing which could allow commission and community to work with fish biologists to maintain fish habitat.
- Karen will ask to have Biomonitoring group put Cobb Brook on their monitoring list and determine B1 or B2 etc. status for swimming, bugs, fishing, aquatic life etc. Monitoring will take two years.
- If a B1 stream, we could inform town of findings and then determine next steps.

### 3. Outstanding Resource Water:

- Water valued for any number of reasons, including: endangered plants, fish, gorges, waterfalls, pools, cascades, brooks narrow for centuries. Karen suggested reviewing the Winooski River Basin Planning map available [dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov)
- Look at map available at [dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov), Winooski river basin to determine natural resources that need to be protected. Are there certain, possibly rare species of trees, animals, or plant life that depend on Cobb Brook in its current condition?

*Experts that could help:*

- Recommend having a geologist to look at Cobb and help determine if it would qualify as outstanding water resource. Possible contacts include: Marjorie Gale state geologist. UVM: what

would they determine is significant about the area? Gretchen Alexander: river scientist for area and studies Winooski watershed. Trout Unlimited: Ask how this compares to other streams?

- UVM naturalist program: could UVM students document natural communities present in Cobb Brook?
- Any historical data? Sawmills, old dam, existing usage, accessibility,
- Action Item: How many linear feet of Cobb belongs to the property owner?
- Action Item: Ask Steve Libby "what do you think of Cobb brook as an Outstanding water resource for its geologic waterfalls, gorges, rock outcrops etc.
- Hypothetical project for UVM students: Would the UVM grad students want to write up a proposal?
- Action Item: Darlene: Ask Aaron for temp readings on Cobb Brook.
- Action Item: Darlene: Is it possible to obtain Nutrients, phosphorous, turbidity levels on regular basis?.

#### WORK PLAN PRIORITIES:

**Town Forest Update: Recreation Community Assistance Planning program Summit:** Lynn reported that summit was well attended with 80 plus participating. However steering committee intends to use multiple strategies to encourage all parties to be involved and offer suggestions for town forest use including, hard copy, online-FPF, open house. Ensure all committees and fire department that are part of town receive survey and ask for their input. Surveys will be offered at Town meeting along with table. Flyer was sent to every house hold.

First look at visioning will occur after Town meeting day.

#### **How do other Conservation Commissions operate and determine use of funds?**

Lynn reported: Hinesburg Conservation Commission currently doesn't contribute to the fund. Organizations continue to ask for funding, but it is completed on a case by case basis. The Hinesburg town forest isn't under HCC. Richmond is an example of a town that depleted their funds. The funds are made to be depleted and used for conservation.

Future Business: Conservation Fund Application process needs to be reviewed.

#### **Conservation Fund Article 14:**

Ryan presented article 14 which proposes capping the conservation fund at \$100,000.

Lynn made motion and Anderson seconded: to oppose article 14. Unanimously agreed that HCC opposes article 14. Ryan will write up the article and Lynn to present at Town meeting. Anderson or Ryan to present if Lynn unable to.

#### **Invasive Plant Workshop**

Anderson reported: Meet at Town Clerks office April 21st<sup>th</sup>, meet and greet. Education, 1 hour, lunch, Town Clerk office knotweed removal, and then other areas TBD. Most likely areas with knotweed and/or poison parsnip.

#### **Clerk update:**

- Ryan reported no response to FPF posts.
- Suggestions: high school student, UVM student? Continue to reach out to community members.  
Action Item: Segale to reach out to Barb Elliot for assistance.
- Action Item: Ryan send job description to Jeannette
- Anderson volunteered to write notes for March

#### **Maple Sugar Open house:**

Segale reported Huntington sugarmakers need to pay to be members, and pay additional fee to be on VT sugarmakers open house weekend map available through state.

Current method of Worthly creating map and HCC helping with printing and placing maps at Beaudry's, Puringtons, Town Meeting, and Tafts continues to work well.

Bryan: contact person with any questions.

Action Item: Segale to reach out to the 6 sugarmakers that were on the map last year.

#### **Vermont Master Naturalist Program:**

Ryan reported that it would be a \$395 sponsorship

Members agreed that our response will be we're considering it, but not ready to sponsor at the moment and will refer folks to Richmond.

#### **Next Month Agenda Items:**

Cobb Brook Experts outreach  
Cobb Brook species dependability  
Conservation fund application process  
Recruitment  
Co-chair

Adjourned 9:08 Lynn motion to adjourn, Anderson seconded, All aye.

#### **Action Items:**

- Follow-up Karen Bates: Biomonitoring group put Cobb Brook on their monitoring list and determine B1 or B2 etc. status for swimming, bugs, fishing, aquatic life etc.
- All?: reviewing the Winooski River Basin Planning map available [dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov). Review map available at [dec.vermont.gov](http://dec.vermont.gov), Winooski river basin to determine natural resources that need to be protected. Are there certain, possibly rare species of trees, animals, or plant life that depend on Cobb Brook in its current condition?
- Action Item: How many linear feet of Cobb belongs to the property owner?
- Action Item: Ask Steve Libby "what do you think of Cobb brook as an Outstanding water resource for its geologic waterfalls, gorges, rock outcrops etc.
- Hypothetical project for UVM students: Would the UVM grad students want to write up a proposal?

- Action Item: Darlene: Ask Aaron for temp readings on Cobb Brook.
- Action Item: Darlene: Is it possible to obtain Nutrients, phosphorous, turbidity levels on regular basis?.
- Ryan article for town meeting presentation
- Action Item: Segale to reach out to Barb Elliot for clerk suggestions assistance.
- Action Item: Ryan send job description to Jeannette
- Anderson volunteered to write notes for March
- Action Item: Segale to reach out to the 6 sugarmakers that were on the map last year.