

Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Meeting

February 12, 2009

Approved March 12, 2009

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DATE

*[Signature]*  
*March 16, 2009*

Meeting began 7:10pm, meeting adjourned 8:28pm

**In attendance:** Wally Jenkins, Alan Brace, Steve Hagenbuch, Laura Hill Bermingham, Amy Dohner, Tyler Miller, Margaret Fowle

**Absent:** Aaron Worthley

**I. Mail, Minutes**

- Changes made to January minutes
- January minutes unanimously approved
- No mail

**II. Town Forest**

- Heather is working on finalizing the Town Forest plan this weekend
- Alan and Tyler had additional edits that did not make it to Heather's draft
- Laura sent Heather an email and asked her to wait for Tyler and Alan's edits
- Heather will send out a revised draft next week to all commissioners via email for final edits

**III. Conservation Fund discussion**

- Alan brought up issue of potential development in the Town Forest and using the Conservation Fund money to buy the development rights, and refund some of the money to the taxpayers of Huntington. Alan had previously discussed this over the phone with Aaron.
- One of the long-term goals in the Town Forest Plan is getting a conservation easement on the land.
- In this case, Tyler mentioned that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party would own the development rights (with additional costs), and the general fund could be refunded.
- In order to go forward with this, we would need to create a proposal, find an interested 3<sup>rd</sup> party, and conduct a potential appraisal (which may not be needed).
- It is necessary to prioritize the needs of the town, which may change over time. However, townspeople have previously voted for the conservation fund to finance conservation projects.
- The HCC's mindset is "the bigger the fund, the bigger the project." But some townspeople may be concerned about why the conservation funds are not being used.
- The Conservation Fund includes recommendations about how much any one project can receive.
- There are currently no applications for Conservation Funding in review by the HCC.
- Amy mentioned the HCC hosting workshops for "How to Conserve Your Land" including the potential to receive Conservation Fund for money to fund projects.
- Amy will contact Heidi Racht and/or the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for information about the Huntington Conservation Fund language and restrictions on how the fund is protected.
- Next meeting discussion: Should we develop a proposal?

#### **IV. Sugarmakers Openhouse**

- Open house is Saturday, March 28, 2009
- Steve and Margaret Taft has contacted sugarmakers in the area
- Aaron has the brochure template on his computer, and the brochure needs to be ready by town meeting
- Beaudry's and Jacques need to be continuously stocked with brochures
- Also, put brochures at the town office and library
- Put the sandwich board out early the week before
- Commissioners gave Steve names of people who sugar in town who may not have been involved in the openhouse previously

#### **V. Trail design grant for Town Forest**

- Tyler submitted the grant proposal to the Vermont Recreation Trails Program to a design a trail through the Town Forest with consultation, mapping and planning through the VYCC
- Funding notice will be received in March or April 2009

#### **VI. New zoning and subdivision regulations**

- The town will vote on whether to adopt the new zoning and subdivision regulations
- The HCC needs to work on getting the word out

#### **VII. Lower Winooski Basin Coordinator meeting**

- Karen Bates, the Lower Winooski Basin Coordinator, is organizing an initial meeting the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> 2009
- Tyler is interested in attending the meeting, possibly with Aaron
- More about the planning process, including minutes from the upper Winooski planning process can be found at [http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/planning/htm/pl\\_winooskibasin.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/planning/htm/pl_winooskibasin.htm)

#### **VIII. Photography exhibit at the library**

- Winter 2010 a good time to hold a scenic/wildlife photography exhibit in the library
- How would we organize the event? Judged? Prizes? Auction?
- Artists can submit pieces for sale, and, if sold, money can serve as a fundraiser for the library (energy efficiency improvements?) Wally will pursue ideas.

#### **IX. Other Business**

##### **1. *Public relations calendar***

- Alan found a good deal with \$6.40/calendar for 100+ calendars
- Best judged exhibit photos end up in the 2011 calendar?

##### **2. *AVCC membership***

- Amy sent 2 emails with no response, there is no phone number or name on the website

##### **3. *Scenic inventories***

- Amy would like to discuss scenic inventories during the March 2009 meeting

##### **4. *Annual HCC retreat***

- Opportunity for all members to brainstorm new projects or ideas