

**Approved meeting minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)
March 11, 2010**

Meeting began 7:04pm, adjourned 9:04pm

In attendance: Wally Jenkins (chair), Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle, Amy Dohner, Alan Brace, Laura Hill Bermingham

Wally called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- Roman moved to approved February meeting minutes with edits
- Unanimous approval

Welcome new member

- Laura Hill Bermingham is the newest commissioner approved by the Selectboard in February 2010

Sugarmakers Open House

- Event is Saturday, March 27, 2010
- Alan delivered the brochures to all sugarmakers
- More copies are needed at the town office, library, and post office
- Wally will put out the sandwich board on Monday, March 22
- Idea for next year: bring your own jug, \$1 off a gallon?

Scenic Inventory

- There was a discussion of the scenic inventory schedule (conducting the inventories, contacting affected landowners, Times Ink article, etc.)
- There are variable that we must take into consideration as when we schedule the inventories (leaves on/off, weather, etc.)
- The random generated points on the map include small parcels. There was a discussion on whether to exclude these small parcels and just inventory large parcels. Also, should historic buildings be included?
- There was a discussion on how to approach landowners: phone call, talking points, in person, etc?
- Times Ink article edits: emphasize that the inventory is for conservation (not planning) purposes, specifically for evaluating Conservation Fund proposals. Also, we are testing methodology and generating baseline data.
- It was decided that we will commit to conducting the inventories in summer 2010.
- Wally will take a closer look at the random points on the map
- Margaret and Wally will look at orthophotos
- Laura will draft talking points

Organization

- There are no new member applications
- Commissioners will actively recruit people in town
- The clerk position was not funded by the Selectboard for FY 2010-2011
- Wally will make an appeal to get on the Selectboard's agenda to discuss this issue
- It was decided that the HCC meeting length will continue to be 2 hours, with ½ hour flexibility, once a month
- Bylaws discussion was tabled, Wally did not know of HCC bylaws, Roman will look into it

Conservation Fund

- Changes to the Conservation Fund guidelines recommended by the HCC in 2007 but never formalized are deemed inappropriate at this time.
- The \$50,000 maximum request recommendation is not sensitive to changes in the total Fund value, and the maximum 25% for any project recommendation discourages applicants who may well have very worthy projects.
- The original Conservation Fund Application Guidelines and Criteria for Use are comprehensive and appropriate, and provide sufficient checks and balances to any use of Conservation Fund money.

Town Forest

- The commissioners agree that the "State of the Forest" errata sticker is good
- Roman moved to pay Aaron Worthley \$20 for printing 50 errata stickers to be put in the remaining State of the Forest reports and at the Town office
- Alan seconded, unanimous approval
- Alan wrote a small article for the Times Ink about the availability of the errata stickers, Wally will send to Heidi
- Amy has 10 copies of the State of the Forest report that need to be signed by the Selectboard
- Should we get more printed?
- The signature page must be brought to the April 5, 2010 Selectboard meeting where Mike Snyder will present the Town Forest Management Plan and State of the Forest Report
- Ed Wildman is going to send Margaret the agenda for the meeting

Salamanders

- Wally is writing up a vernal pool mapping article and salamander crossing article for the Times Ink
- The vernal pool mapping project is offered through Arrowwood Environmental and the Center for Ecostudies, and is a statewide effort to map vernal pools throughout the state
- Training will occur on April 20, 2010 at the Audubon Center from 5-8pm, pre-registration required (Michael@arrowwoodvt.com)
- Wally will put up the remaining 2 salamander crossing signs
- Roman moved to approve up to \$50 on new signs
- Wally seconds, unanimous approval

AVCC Annual Meeting

- Discussion tabled for April 2010 meeting
- Roman mentioned that not all commissioners are receiving the AVCC emails

Natural resources, agricultural, and historic data

- Wally would like to compile and collect all the data on Conservation Fund criteria (i.e., natural resources, agricultural, and historic data) and have it all in 1 place
- Margaret will look at GIS overlay data available
- Laura mentioned that a GIS map could be generated to target conservation “hotspots” in town

Other business:

Special Places

- Laura will look into the list of places that was generated in a previous meeting
- We should host another Special Places in spring or summer

Adjourn:

Roman moved to adjourn at 9:04pm, Wally seconded, unanimous approval

Date unapproved minutes to town clerk:	<u>March 13, 2010</u>
Date approved minutes to the town clerk:	<u>April 12, 2010</u>