

RECEIVED [Signature]
DATE May 24, 2011

**Approved meeting minutes
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)
April 14, 2011**

Meeting began 7:10pm, adjourned at 8:58pm

Commissioners in attendance: Wally Jenkins (chair), Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle, Laura Hill Bermingham, Cassandra Wilday

Absent: Alan Brace, Sally Hillary

Wally called the meeting to order at 7:10pm

Minutes and mail

- Roman made a move to approve the March minutes
- Wally seconded
- Unanimous approval

NO Public questions or comments

CSWD Community Cleanup Fund

- Town has \$1500 if we know of a good dump site/solid waste problem on public or private land
- If private, the landowner must have financial need
- Wally thought of the woods behind the town garage, but checked it out and didn't look too bad
- Roman mentioned dumps along the riverside
- Aaron and Dori identified 4 sites for clean up in the River Corridor Plan

Huntington River

Huntington River Conservation Partnership

- E. coli study
- Aaron Worthley has used the HCC as a sponsor for the grant funding
- Currently, Aaron is interested in more input from the HCC and the Richmond Conservation Commission
- Should the E. coli study continue? If so, what should the main objective be?
- Aaron cannot continue to organize volunteers and is looking for input from the Richmond and Huntington CC on a replacement

River Corridor Plan

- The corridor plan is a whole study of the Huntington River in Huntington and Richmond
- Map includes planting buffers, invasive plant removal, restoring wetlands,

removing berms, etc.

- Dori is looking for Conservation Commission help
- Laura thinks that the HCC could sponsor events and gather volunteers for various projects
- Laura would be interested in invasive control and buffer planting and could involve UVM graduate and undergraduate students
- Roman made mention of the Nature Conservancy article “The Future of Conservation” by Peter Kareiva – is it better to use money to do many, small conservation projects around Huntington than to sit on the Conservation Fund money?

Upcoming projects

Spotted Salamanders

- Wally met up with Sandra Fary and her 7th graders on Gillette Pond Rd – 100s of live and a few dead spotted salamanders
- Front Porch Forum post on salamander crossings was successful
- Salamander signs are missing on Gore Rd and Gillette Pond Rd

Special Places

- May 21st (rain date 5/22)
- Margaret is writing an article for the Times Ink and will post an email on the Front Porch Forum

2012 Wildlife Calendar

- skipped this item – we will wait for Alan to weigh in during the May meeting

Fall mushroom program

- Gwen Causer (Audubon program manager) is interested in the Fall mushroom walk and recommended some local experts

Conservation Fund research and preparation

Prime Ag lands

- Margaret presented a GIS map of Huntington with agricultural soil levels from 2007
- Data layers are from the VCGI (VT Center for Geographic Information) website
- Wally speculated about whether the soil data was field checked or done remotely
- Other data layers: deer wintering yard, wildlife crossing values, wildlife linkage (crossing + core habitat; ratings from high to low) from 2006
- Ecological hotspots layer was ambiguous with no data
- Margaret thinks that what we know locally is better than the coarse data layers available
- Related to wildlife corridors layer – Wally and Sally attended the tracking workshop –they recommended collecting data over a number of years, and also mentioned that it is difficult to learn all the different tracks, so it’s a challenge to

initiate a track monitoring program (big project)

- Laura is interested in lining up multiple layers to pinpoint hotspots for conservation and spoke with the director of the Field Naturalist Program, Jeffrey Hughes
 - Jeffrey said that a Field Naturalist graduate student could take on this project as his or her master's thesis, but it would cost \$5000 to fund the student
 - Margaret mentioned that Jericho, Charlotte, Monkton have all done these sorts of projects
 - Wally thinks that our main objective as a Conservation Commission is the Conservation Fund, so anything to improve its use would be helpful
 - Roman thinks a product would be useful to the HCC as well as the Planning Commission, etc.
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- Wally recommends taking small steps on this project and bringing in someone to talk about the soil data layers
 - Margaret and Laura will talk to friends on the Jericho and Monkton conservation commissions and report back in May

Wrap-ups

Sugarmakers Open House

- Wait for Sally for a wrap-up
- Wally's concerns about continuing to sponsor the Open House
- Many positives, but very little acknowledgements
- Little participation from sugarmakers other than the Tafts
- Roman mentioned that the sugarhouses have to pay to be a part of the state maple open house
- Wally thinks that we are doing the sugarmakers a favor, but disappointed by lack of acknowledgement by most (Phillips, Maple Wind and Tafts were photo show sponsors)

Photo show revenue

- Final tally (including card sale income) = \$223 to Conservation Fund
- \$200 (registration), \$23 (card sales)
- \$72 to library (\$60 registration; \$12 card sales)

Other business

- Roman mentioned planning for another "retreat"

Adjourn: Wally moved to adjourn at 8:58pm, Roman seconded, unanimous approval

Date unapproved minutes to town clerk: April 18, 2011

Date approved minutes to town clerk: May 12, 2011