

**Approved meeting minutes  
Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC)  
August 11, 2011**

**Meeting began 7:07pm, adjourned at 8:11pm**

**Commissioners in attendance:** Wally Jenkins (chair), Laura Hill Bermingham, Alan Brace, Sally Hillary

**Absent:** Roman Livak, Margaret Fowle

Julia Tabor attended the meeting to explore the opportunity of volunteering to take meeting minutes

**Wally called the meeting to order at 7:07pm**

**Review and approve minutes, review mail**

- July minutes lost due to computer issues
- Alan received the Conservation Commission association newsletter

**Public questions and comments**

- No public questions

**2012 Huntington Wildlife and Scenic Calendar**

- Alan emailed the commission about having a lot on his plate and would like to put the calendar on hold for now
- Alan recommended picking the project back up in the winter
- Laura recommended piggy-backing the calendar with the photo contest, and advertising for calendar photos with appropriate resolution
- Wally will send a short note or email to everyone who entered photos explaining our decision
- Steve Parren has notified the commission of *Phragmites* - Wally cut the patch of *Phragmites* along the Hollow Rd. on the Huntington side of Lincoln Hill Rd., south side of the road

**Huntington Water and Wastewater Assessment meeting update**

- Wally's update on the Huntington Water and Wastewater Assessment meeting
- Some history... there is a group in town that wants to preserve the old town hall (Barbara Felitti, Aaron Worthley, etc.) but there is no wastewater treatment there
- In thinking of this old building, they began to review the town plan on septic
- There is a state program that awards grant money to towns to hire consultants to study this issues for towns
- The Town Hall Committee formed the water and wastewater assessment group and have received a grant
- The Committee put out an RFP

- Consultants from Stone Environmental got the \$65,000 grant to conduct the year-long study to explore ways that town can improve its wastewater situation and water supply
- They are currently writing a survey to be sent to townspeople
- The Planning Commission is involved and the town plan and zoning regulations are to be updated soon
- HCC interests may include impaired river status with high *E. coli* counts, soil data, potential Conservation Fund use in preservation of the Town Hall
- Alan recalled the interest in moving the Hall – is this still under consideration?
- Laura asked if the Town Hall could install a composting toilet system and greywater system to circumvent the septic issue - Wally mentioned talking to Aaron about this
- Sally mentioned that the state parks have composting systems

### **Huntington River *E. coli* monitoring project**

- If and how will this project go forward?
- Options – continue testing program, start some mitigation of cleaning up the river, or both
- Aaron was more focused on the testing, but the commission should take over mitigation approach
  1. Inspect and correct failed septic system
  2. Groundwater monitoring (put in testing wells in sensitive areas) – effort proposed by Dean Grover (health officer)
  3. Riparian buffers – Laura has expressed interest in this and spoke with Chris Smith about the Partnership Program, and Alan is currently in the CREP buffer planting program (federal)
- Wally hopes the study by Stone Environmental will give us some insight into the best approaches
- Laura asked if the HCC would like to work on the project over the winter and plant in early spring 2012
- Wally has the Arrowwood map with needs for riparian buffer zones along the river and will bring it in
- Alan recommended that Laura ask more about the various programs – there are a number of them available
- Julia has worked on watershed riparian buffer planting through the Intervale on a farm in Franklin Co.
- Alan's farm is in the CREP, which is starting this October
- Wally mentioned the Winooski NRCD is having a meeting on August 16 at 6-8pm to discuss resource issues regarding invasive species, run-off, etc.
- Justin Kenney (formerly with the VYCC) is heading up the meeting, and needs to

### **New member search and advertisement**

- Cassandra decided to step down from the commission
- Wally will write up a new advertisement and send it to the Town Administrator, who will advertise for the commission
- We will also get to word out via Front Porch Forum, Times Ink, etc.

**Mushroom program with Audubon**

- Mushroom program with Audubon is October 16, 1-4pm with Robert Reznick
- HCC will help advertise
- Wally talked with Gwen about the money issue for the walk – Audubon collects a fee and will pay Robert out of the fee, so the HCC does not need to provide funds

**How can we best prepare ourselves to be ready for the Conservation Fund?**

- Wally explained the Conservation Fund to Julia

**Tracking program** – should we go ahead with this?

**Other business**

None

**Adjourn**8:11pm

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**Date unapproved minutes to town clerk:**

August 11, 2011

**Date approved minutes to town clerk:**

September 10, 2011

*Received for Record*

*November 15, 2011*

*[Signature]*  
*Town Clerk*