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April 26, 2012

Huntington Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes 2/9/2012

I. Call to order

Wally Jenkins called to order the regular meeting of the Huntington Conservation Commission at 7:19 PM on 2, 9, 2012

II. Roll call

Wally Jenkins conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Aaron Worthley, Roman Livak, Cindy Sprague, Margaret Fowle, Julia Tabor, Wally Jenkins, and Jim Sadler.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Wally Jenkins read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were corrected for the clerk.

IV. Open issues

a) Sugar Maker's Open House

Wally says he's done a call around to participants and advertisers for the Sugar Maker's Open House and has had no response yet. Wally mentions that he would be happy to drive the promotional flyers for the open house over to Heidi after they are printed out. Wally is going to leave a large pile of these flyers at the meeting hall for the rest of the HCC to distribute. Cindy has done a call around to the Times Ink and they will publish a save the date for the open house. Cindy plans to put another one in the March edition of the Times Ink as well. Roman volunteers to place signs advertising the Open House in front of the Fire House and Library. Roman is going to coordinate with Heidi to find the best places for them.

b) New Member recruitment

There is consensus in the HCC that we are getting low on volunteers to serve on the commission and that new members should be actively recruited. Jim mentions that John Altermatt would like to sit in on a meeting to see if the HCC is something he is interested in. All members agree to actively recruit anyone they may know who could be interested in being involved with the HCC.

c) Riparian buffers

Roman mentions that we are likely to get more extreme weather events in the future, so going forward we should do the best we can to retain as much land as possible with buffering. Roman also mentions that he's noticed Huntington residents taking gravel out of the rivers post-hurricane Irene and that the combination of lax river conservation efforts and lack of riparian buffering is really counterproductive.

d) Huntington Center Trail

Cindy sees the potential for a trail to come together behind the Huntington maintenance building. She sees this as an opportunity to conserve land and expose Huntington residents to diverse natural spaces. Cindy mentions that there is in fact a trail already in existence behind the town garage.

V. New business

a) **Microbial source tracking of e-coli in the Huntington river**

For the past twelve years Huntington has collected water samples to screen for e-coli. Aaron says he plans to submit a grant application to go ahead and do so again this year.

Aaron says that funding is available through the Vermont EPSCOR project to monitor the Huntington River for bacteria. He would like the go ahead from the HCC to act in an official capacity on behalf of the organization as a representative. All assembled vote in consensus to have Aaron represent the HCC as a part of the e-coli source tracking project.

b) **Efficacy of a permanent e-coli monitoring station in the Huntington River**

Aaron mentions that a permanent monitoring installation could be purchased for Huntington for around \$1,000.00. Roman mentions that this might be something to propose at the next town meeting.

c) **Funds available for paid clerk**

Wally asks Roman if the town board approved funding for a paid clerk position on the HCC. Roman confirms that the board has approved funding for this position.

d) **Budget Updates**

Margaret runs through our 2011 expenditures- the HCC has spent \$50.00 in dues, \$25.00 on office supplies, and \$116.00 on purchased services. We are currently at 46% of our budget and we are half way through the year.

e) **Expansion of Huntington main road shoulder for recreation**

f) Jim mentions that there might be V-Trans money available to build a bike path from Huntington to Richmond. Jim mentions that there are other Vermont towns with existing road side recreation paths that we could emulate. Cindy mentions that Stowe has something similar that we could evaluate. Roman mentions that when the town does its next pavement study Huntington could consider widening the road a hair in order to accommodate bikers. Cindy mentions that the road study could also involve traffic mitigation efforts such as solar powered speed monitors to deter speeding motorists.

g) **Salamander Migration**

The next meeting HCC is March 8th and by then we will be gearing up for Salamander migration. Cindy asks who usually does the Salamander education talks. Wally says that it's Sandra Fairly. Wally wonders if we should think about making new signs to promote slow driving during salamander crossing because the old ones are too cute and keep getting stolen.

VI. Adjournment

Wally adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm

Minutes submitted by: Julia Tabor

Minutes approved by: