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****Approved** Meeting Minutes**
Huntington Conservation Commission
February 15, 2013

Commissioners in attendance: Roman Livak, Cindy Sprague, Margaret Fowle, Rebecca Ryan, Leah Korce, Jim Sadler (arrived at 7:10) JB Bryan (arrived at 7:23)

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Review and approve minutes, review mail:

- January meeting minutes approved: Roman motions to approve, Cindy seconds.
- 2/12/2013- HCC sent letter of support to Audubon for construction to address back porch and handicap access

Public questions and comments:

- HCC used to review Act 250 issues- is this something we should start doing again

Welcome to new members Leah Korce and Rebecca Ryan!
Sugar makers Open House- Updates

- No updates from JB on list of who wants to be included in brochure
- Brochure needs to be ready for Town Meeting, March 5th. JB will finalize participant list, Aaron Worthley will produce brochure and, Margaret will make copies to have Boy Scouts distribute, list Cindy as contact person on brochure: 434-5522.

Discussion of process for email approval of sign-on & support letters, etc

- Can we OK letters of support without having meeting when there is no financial commitment? Proposal that Chair can sign letters of support for Conservation efforts when time sensitive issues come up. Should establish protocol for getting email approval. Roman will explore formalization of this protocol.
- If political or involves money than must bring to group- subjective.
- Letters sent must be included at next meeting in 'review of mail'

Current Project Updates
Riparian talk/project – summary and next steps for landowner outreach

- Great talk, unfortunately limited attendance
- Did people question relevance because they thought it was for people who lived close to river?
- Public television /rebroadcast potential for next time
- Web page maintenance- who does this?
- Meghan will be in touch about next steps. Try to get her to a meeting to take a look at list of land owners and make action plan.

Salamanders – finalize plans/costs for signage, t-shirts, outreach, etc

- Costs- 12'x16' sign, post, screws, etc.
  105 signs- $845 (inc. $600 discount from Gary Blodgett)= $8.44/sign
  210 signs- $1455 (inc. discount of $400 Gary Blodgett) $6.92/sign

- We don't need this many. Could we sell these to other towns and at least make some money back? Smaller numbers- what's minimum order? How much would it cost?

Motion: If signs are $300 or less for 10-20 signs, Roman can and should order before next meeting. Jim motions to approve;.Cindy seconds. All in favor.

- T-shirts- do we authorize budge for Chris Billis to make shirts in afterschool program? Reuben potentially join on educational talk.

Motion: Allocate up to $50 for materials to screen print children's salamander t-shirts at afterschool art program with Chris. Roman motions to approve; Jim seconds. All in favor.

- Outreach in Times Ink- March 7th deadline, for end of March issue. This would still be in time so we should create something.
  For people who want to help with crossing in Huntington- how do we organize that? Ask on FPF for people to contact Cindy if interested in being involved with outreach.

Town Plan – next steps

- How to tackle Town Plan? We need to look through old Town Plan, focus on conservation/natural resource issues, and come up with recommendations
- We should meet with Planning Commission after elections to determine what they want us to do/include. Find out what the timeline the Planning Commission is working with for Town Plan revision.
- Timeline for HCC input: done by May. Look at Town Plan in March meeting and do some brainstorming. 1st half of next meeting is organizational meeting; second half start on town plan. Uplands study- Will not be done before July to include in Town planning conversations. Get Arrowwood to present initial research findings to HCC March/April.

Invasive Species& Wild Parsnip removal plan for 2013

- Hinesburg has verbiage about invasive species in Town Plan- would be good model to look at.
- Grant from forest service and Nature Conservancy: working on training trainers- educational workshops for neighbors to identify invasive species issues. Cindy is participating in meetings.
- Plan for invasives along roadways to guide road crew on how to address/manage. Suggested 'best management practices.' Look for places we can include invasives in Town Plan. We need commitment from Yogi that road crew can manage invasives, and communicate with HCC on status in summer. We will communicate directly with Yogi & Barbara, and formally discuss with Selectboard later.

CSWD

- Local Color paint program- no longer able to produce: issues with acceptance of paint containers, now it all has to be sent away
- Rover- confirmed 9/28/13 as next Huntington date

ECOS

- Jim went to meeting and participated in facilitated hands-on engagement activity. Potential to have this activity done with communities to engage their participation. Would be multi town in scope. Planning phases- more info coming.

More outreach – Facebook, postings on AVCC list serve, etc.

- Are we having a table at Town Meeting, if so, what do we want to do? HCC will not have a staffed table, and will look into sharing table space to place: sugarmakers open house brochures, salamander info & sign up for people who want to be on call list, brochures from the river talk.

Other news

- Chittenden County regional plan is online and they are looking for feedback
- Town building committee and town land committee (for existing town land) established; looking for citizen members

9:06 Meeting adjourned: Roman motions to adjourn meeting; Jim seconds. All agree.

Action Items/ Next steps

- Margaret- look into getting power point or documentation from riparian talk and then we'll decided how to share access with community; brochures from river talk for Town meeting
- JB- call people to finalize who wants to include to Sugar makers open house. Aaron & Dori, Altermat, Charlie Spence, Andy Carlo, Steve Willsey, Jim Rowe.
  Send list to Aaron to make brochure aaron@arrowwoodvt.com,
- Margaret will talk to Heidi about Boy Scout involvement in sugar maker outreach- sandwich boards and brochure distribution. Make copies of brochure to distribute.
- Margaret- check in with Margaret Taft about status of advertising
- Roman- will look into whether chair can have authority to sign non-monetary letters of support without official Board approval at meeting.
- Roman- bring up at Select board: having 2 meeting time frame to review conservation fund requests
- Roman- Get price for 20 signs to compare. Will they be reflective? Order if under $300.
- Cindy - write up educational blurb and include photos in Times Ink about Salamander crossing; post on Front Porch Forum to acquire list of people who want to be involved
- Margaret-ask Aaron & Dori if they can present to HCC, and when- March or April
- **Everyone**- review Huntington Town Plan prior to next meeting; review Hinesburg Town Plan for invasive species guidance
- Margaret- give Jim effective invasives mowing dates.
- Jim- pursue coordinated process with road crew and Barbara about roadside mowing to minimize invasives spreading
- Rebecca- check in with Heidi about table space at Town Meeting

Organizational Meeting (first meeting after town meeting) topics-

- Chair & co chair
- Treasurer?
- Officially recognize new note taker
- Decide when we meet, how often
- New procedures- letters of support, fund application process- reasonable timeline on website, publicize HCC as estate planning option, steps to be proactive about land conservation options in Huntington

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 2/20/2013 Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 3/20/2013