



Approved Minutes  
Huntington Conservation Commission  
July 10, 2014  
Submitted by Sheri Lynn

RECEIVED *[Signature]*  
DATE *December 9, 2014*

Commission members – Roman Livak, Rebecca Ryan, Margaret Fowle, Sheri Lynn, JB Bryan

Public - Bill Menning and Caitlin Cusack UVM. Ext.; Darlene Palola; Ruth Blodgett; Barbara Elliott

Margaret calls meeting to order

**Motion: To approve June Minutes with no changes**

- Roman moved to accept minutes and Rebecca seconded.
- Unanimously passed

**Public Questions**

Ruth asked about the commitment to clerk for the commission - monthly minutes, Caitlin Jenness made contributions as well and brought computer to take notes. There are new rules regarding posting public meetings in 5 days, part of the clerk's responsibility. The minutes include motions and who is there, some discussion, next meeting agenda items and task lists (who commits to what). Ruth said she wants to see what we do first. There is \$ 500 annual stipend.

**Forest Pests Presentation – Bill Menninger and Caitlin Cusack**

- Bill is a volunteer Forest Pest First Detector, trained and able to screen for pest, take samples and state lab makes final determination.
- Issue with these pests is dead trees in the right of way and road hazards.
- There are an estimated 4000 white ash in the right of way in Huntington.
- Emerald Ash Bore attacks white, black and green ash. Active May - August and kills tree by girdling under the bark and killing over time. Spread is rapid. Spread by firewood in 26 states. Can you use infested trees for lumber or firewood? Limit the distance you can transport it. You can debark a tree and take an inch off. Generally quarantines are used to reduce spread and to give time to find solutions. A lot has been learned already. Ash trees also yellows from fungus or Emerald Ash Bore. This pest may attack stressed tree so what about cutting them down? Some towns do it and others do not in the right of way. The recommendation is to do a town plan. Huntington's town plan did not include this specifically. It says to maintain rural character of roads. At the state level they are looking at regulating firewood. First step is to define the extent of ash. Could be a Boy Scout project surveying the roads. What about the town forest? The current town forest is not accessible and the ECOS map does not show where Ash trees are. Bill can continue to inventory Camel's Hump Road. Other roads suggested Mayo or Gillette Pond Road.
- Asian Longhorn Beetle slower spreading attacks hardwoods prefers red maple.
- The Hemlock Woolley Adelgid spreads by birds - recommendation remove bird feeders because it is picked up on feathers or feet.

*Next steps –*

1. Bill will work on inventory.
2. More discussion is needed to define next steps.

**Town Forest-**

- There is interest in purchasing current town forest and the sale could go towards new forest.
- Discussed buying the new forest first and waiting to plan the future of the current forest.
- Suggestion was to invite Linda Swannie who owns the Mayo Road land as the potential town forest, to next meeting in September.
- Rebecca called Williston who spent \$20,000 of VT State Recreation funds and \$2000 for lumber for its five locations. They also use some interns and staff, and volunteers.
- The potential land for a new forest is not in current use, approximately 140 acres and \$200,000.
- There is approximately \$170,000 in the Huntington Conservation fund. Additional funds from other sources is needed for maintenance and to avoid depleting the Conservation funds completely.

**Motion –** To recommend Darlene Palola to the commission upon her sending letter expressing interest in being a member

- Roman moved and seconded by Rebecca
- Unanimously passed

**August Meeting –** We will not meet unless something comes up.

**Co-Chair -** Margaret is interested in finding a co-chair as was the structure before. Co-chairs alternate organizing meeting agendas. She asked if members were interested to let her know.

**Next Steps –**

1. Margaret will call VT Housing and Conservation Board regarding timing of application for funds to purchase new town forest.
2. Roman will work on the Conservation Fund application.
3. Margaret will let Barbara know by August 7 that we are not meeting.

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

- Continue forest pest discussion to figure out commission role- Review the town plan as it mentions invasive species. Consider how it may be coordinate through road maintenance and think about setting up educational and posters displayed at common meeting locations as one outreach strategy.
- Pending confirmation Craig Digiammarino (Rebecca to contact)
- Pending confirmation Linda Swannie (Roman to contact)

Draft minutes sent to Town Clerk: 7/14/14

Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk: 12/2/14