

RECEIVED

DATE

January 21, 2015

Town of Huntington — Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Meeting



Thursday, 10 December 2015—7:00 pm

Town Office - downstairs

** APPROVED ** MINUTES

Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve the November minutes • Mail • Public Comment • Huntington Backroads: Improving culverts/aquatic passages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with Corrina Parnapy, District Manager for the Natural Resources Conservation District, and Jamie, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. • Town Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catamount Easement Update (Rebecca) • Process to Sell Current Town Forest (Roman) • Possible properties for purchase • Strategies on Public Engagement (Jenna) • HCC Work Plan and Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Places Tour: Snowshoe and Tracking Tour (Rebecca) • Storm water Grant Application (Darlene) • Gillette Pond Crossing • Discuss Verification of Wildlife Coordinators: Next Steps? • Annual Report – areas to highlight/writing assignments • Budget, other outstanding agenda items, business or updates
Members present:	Sheri Lynn (Co-Chair), Rebecca Ryan (Co-Chair), Jenna Whitson, Darlene Palola JB Bryan, Roman Livak
Staff/Officials present	Terry Ryan, HCC Clerk; Barbara Eliot, Huntington Town Administrator
Others present	Corrina Parnapy, District Manager for the Natural Resources Conservation District
Call to order	Sheri Lynn called the meeting to order at 19:05
Approval of Minutes (12 November 2015) - MOTION	MOTION: Livak and Palola seconded to approve the draft minutes of 12 November 2015, as submitted. Passed 5-0, Livak abstaining.
Mail	Vermont Land Trust brochure. No discussion
Public Comment	None

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Agenda	Discussion
<p>Topic: Huntington Backroads: Improving culverts/aquatic passages</p> <p>ACTIONS</p>	<p>Lynn invited Corrina Parnapy, District Manager for the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) to discuss the opportunities her organization may provide to the HCC. Salient points she noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She now resides in Huntington and as the District Manager of WNRCD can prioritize projects. • Federal Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has grant money available that does not require direct match (can be in-kind, volunteer, labor) funds, specifically to improve native trout habitat. Several culverts in Huntington have been targeted by the FWS, on Texas Hill and Sherman Hollow roads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Warren has done a project of this nature, at \$79,000. She was uncertain how much the Town contributed. ○ Culvert work already done that meets FWS criteria (different then the VT Agency of Transportation) may give the Town “points” toward future habitat effort of the FWS. ○ FWS POC is Jamie Masterson ○ The VT DEC may also have funds available through the Clean Water Fund ○ The Lake Champlain Basin Initiative may also have funds ○ Parnapy said that she would prepare the grant paperwork should any of these become viable to the HCC. <p>Lynn asked if FWS had any other priority projects in Huntington; Parnapy said she would find out.</p> <p>Ryan asked about timeline requirements; Parnapy said she would find out.</p> <p>Lynn said she will send Parnapy the HCC Work Plan for integration into the WNRCD Basin Plan, and invited Parpany to join the HCC; she accepted, but process was not initiated.</p> <p>HCC moved on in the Agenda; Parnapy remained and participated in the discussions.</p>
<p>Topic: Town Forest</p> <p>ACTIONS</p>	<p>Catamount Easement Update (Ryan) – no update, the Town lawyer has not yet reported. Barbara Elliot said she would check.</p> <p>Process to Sell Current Town Forest (Livak) – been in contact with VLCT lawyer Garret Baxter, appears to be OK to sell the Forest if the Town wishes, as it has not been designated a Town Forest by the State, so they do not need to sign off on it. Livak to verify and get details for January meeting.</p> <p>Possible properties for purchase – the Commission examined property maps of the Town and discussed the possible availability of properties which abut existing public land (as discussed in last meeting , the Vermont Land Trust may have funds to support such a purchase). Some of the ones looked at were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miles Prentiss property • Walter Danko property • Melissa Hoffman property • Ross Hill properties 1, 2 & 3 <p>Strategies on Public Engagement (Whitson) – she discussed how best to get the public of the Town aware and engaged regarding the Forest and future options for it. After some discussion the following actions were agreed. Livak pointed out that time is short if the HCC is to do these before the Town Meeting in March.</p>

ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan to invite Andrea Morgani from the Hinesburg Town Forest committee to teleconference with Whitson to describe their process • Have an open forum discussion with townspeople to get ideas as to what the Town now has as a Forest and what they might want as one (mountains, forest, water, greenway etc). • Survey the Town for knowledge, ideas, and opinions about the Forest, online. • Paper survey and discuss the options and path(s) forward at Town Meeting. 																																																															
<p>Topic: HCC Work Plan and Priorities MOTION</p> <p>ACTION</p>	<p>Special Places Tour: Snowshoe and Tracking Tour (Ryan) – discussed coordinating with Audubon to provide ‘scholarships’ for their 10 January snowshoe nature walk. MOTION: Livak motioned and Lynn seconded a motion to provide \$65 to support this event. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Storm water Grant Application (Palola) - \$10k grant awarded: engineering assessments will be in May-June 2016, report in July to include Permit drafts, for possible 2017 execution (if budget funds/grant available).</p> <p>Gillette Pond Crossing – there was concern the temporary silt fencing after a power line was buried might interfere with amphibian crossings; the fence is being removed, so this is overtaken by events.</p> <p>Verification of Wildlife Corridors: Whitson asked what the actual process is to do this; Everett Marshall is an expert; Palola to contact him .</p>																																																															
<p>Topic: Annual Report ACTION</p>	<p>Ryan noted that the HCC Annual Report is due 13 January. 750 words expected. Contributions are to be sent to Whitson by 4 January for editing and compilation.</p>																																																															
<p>Topic: Budget</p>	<p>As provided by the Selectboard below; no discussion.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="324 1008 1250 1333"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>13-14 A</th> <th>14-15 A</th> <th>15-16B</th> <th>16-17 B</th> <th>Incr (Decr)</th> <th>% Change</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HCC</td> <td>17,133</td> <td>16,253</td> <td>17,517</td> <td>17,723</td> <td>207</td> <td>1.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salary - HCC Clerk</td> <td>440</td> <td>0</td> <td>480</td> <td>672</td> <td>192</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FICA/Medicare 34</td> <td>0</td> <td>37</td> <td>51</td> <td>15</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dues/Training 0</td> <td>50</td> <td>120</td> <td>120</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Workshops/Programs</td> <td>472</td> <td>80</td> <td>240</td> <td>240</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operating Supplies</td> <td>67</td> <td>0</td> <td>140</td> <td>140</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Purchased Services</td> <td>120</td> <td>123</td> <td>500</td> <td>500</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Funding</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>16,000</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		13-14 A	14-15 A	15-16B	16-17 B	Incr (Decr)	% Change	HCC	17,133	16,253	17,517	17,723	207	1.2%	Salary - HCC Clerk	440	0	480	672	192		FICA/Medicare 34	0	37	51	15			Dues/Training 0	50	120	120	0			Workshops/Programs	472	80	240	240	0		Operating Supplies	67	0	140	140	0		Purchased Services	120	123	500	500	0		Reserve Funding	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	
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<p>Topic: Other</p>	<p>Palola noted that the Clean Water Initiative has excellent Brown Bag Lunch discussions, next on is 15 December.</p>																																																															
<p>Adjourn MOTION</p>	<p>MOTION: Livak moved and Lynn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 20:58. Passed unanimously.</p>																																																															
	<p>14 January 2016 – Next Meeting date 12 December 2015 – Draft/unapproved minutes sent to Town Clerk for website posting 14 January 2016 – Final/approved minutes approved 19 January 2016 – Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk for recording & website posting</p>																																																															