

RECEIVED *[Signature]*
 DATE *March 14, 2016*



Town of Huntington — Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Meeting

Thursday, 11 February 2016—7:00 pm

Town Office - downstairs
 ** APPROVED ** MINUTES

Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve the January minutes, review mail • Public Comment • Identifying wildlife and critical habitat corridors: discussion with Everett Marshall, Information Manager, Wildlife Diversity Program, VT Fish and Wildlife <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next steps • Shared collaboration with HHCT on conservation issues: discussion with Anne Dannenberg, HHCT • Town Forest Public Engagement Forum (April 14) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus: Should we sell the current TF and use proceeds for new one? 2. Process/format/promotion 3. Action items • HCC Work Plan and Priorities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sugar makers' Open House (4/2-4/3): contact sugar makers, press release, what else? 2. Next steps to update work plan • Updates: Audubon event, Town Forest Access (Feb 8 SB meeting), CTA easement (Feb 22 public hearing), clerk position, budget, other outstanding agenda items, business or updates • Adjourn • Next Meeting : March Thursday, 10, 2016
Members present:	Sheri Lynn (Co-Chair), Rebecca Ryan (Co-Chair), Darlene Paola and JB Bryan. Absent were Roman Livak and Jenna Whitson
Staff/Officials present	
Others present	Guests: Christa & Nektarios Konstantinopoulos
Call to order	Sheri Lynn called the meeting to order at 19:05. Sheri reviewed the agenda and all agreed to postpone the town forest engagement forum discussion to the March meeting. Jenna is sick and she was to lead this discussion.
Approval of Minutes (14 January 2016) – MOTION	MOTION: Rebecca motioned and Darlene seconded to approve the draft minutes of 14 January 2016, as submitted. Passed unanimously of members present.
Mail	Vermont Land Trust Annual Report. No discussion

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Public Comment	None
Agenda	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic: Wildlife and Critical Habitat Corridors: 	<p>Everett Marshall shared slides showing an Agency of Natural Resources GIS tool, "Natural Resources Atlas." The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's approach to identifying wildlife corridors is by 1) species habitats, 2) natural community level (wetland, forest blocks, etc. and 3) landscape. He shared maps and with different overlays (development, riparian quarters, forest blocks, etc.). In general, Huntington has good forest blocks without a lot of development. He suggested the HCC look at landscapes and where the "pinch points" may be that would encroach on crossings. He suggested we include riparian quarters as well as forest blocks. Everett noted that the ECOS Science to Action (STA) corridor map shows arrows which could be misconstrued as the actual corridors when in fact they are broader as shown on the ANR maps. He thought the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) could overlay the STA map with the ANR map. He shared two books that Anne Dannenberg will place in the library for use: 1) Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage, and 2) Wildlife Habitat Management for Land in Vermont. Everett suggested the best thing we could do to inform the planning commission and DRB's work is to review the map(s), and get out at night to look at connectivity. All agreed, but noted that the next few months will be busy with the town forest forum. All agreed it would be good to host a tracking session (for members and the public) prior to – or during the hike. Noting the conversation is not over, but we need to move on the agenda, Sherri thanked Everett for sharing his expertise.</p>
ACTION:	Rebecca will try to find the person who taught a tracking class at MMUHS, and Everett will ask his wife who teaches tracking to children if she would be willing.
Topic: HHCT shared collaboration	<p>Anne Dannenberg gave a brief of the Huntington Historical and Community Trust's history and mission. She and other board members would like to explore how the HHCT and HCC could complement each other and cooperate on conservation efforts. She, as the librarian, offered the library for future HCC meetings. All agreed to take up her offer for the next meeting (March 10) and consider regular use. We talked about the public forum, originally scheduled on April 14 (HCC regular meeting). The library is not available that night, but Anne will check April 21 for availability. HHCT, as a 501c3, can help to leverage grant applications HHC may pursue. HHCT has a successful cultural speakers' series, and perhaps we could coordinate to tap into their speakers for program (including Special Places Tours) and/or help to enhance the list of speakers/topics. HHCT could help to fund conservation signage (for example along the river). HHCT could also help with community engagement, particularly around the town forest discussion. HHCT will offer \$500 grants for community beautification and/or environmental projects.</p>
ACTION:	Sheri offered to be the liaison with HHCT. Everett offered to do a plant/shrub walk (for Special Tours). Anne will check 4/21 library availability for town forest forum.
Topic: Town Forest Public Forum	Postponed to March 10, 2016 meeting.
Topic: Sugar makers' Open House	Rebecca said Margaret Taft preferred having an open house the same weekend as the state's open house April 2 & 3 (instead of traditional last weekend in March). All agreed.
ACTION:	Rebecca will email Margaret Taft and request list of previous sugar makers and press release. JB will contact sugar makers once he has the list. JB will ask Aaron Worthley if he can update the brochure and print. Rebecca will write and send the press release (statewide). Sheri Lynn will ask Roman if he will take care of the sandwich signs.

<p>Updates</p>	<p>Audubon program: Rebecca said two Huntingtonians attended the Audubon bird hike. Audubon invoiced HCC for \$65 for two scholarships (\$30) and snacks (\$15) for a total of \$45. While the attendance was low, it was a good start and we should consider offering again for other Audubon programs.</p> <p>Town Forest Access for Logging: Sheri shared the following from Barbara Elliott regarding Remo Pizzagalli' s request to access the town forest for logging: Keith moved and Hendrickson seconded that, as recommended by the Huntington Conservation Commission, the Selectboard approve the use of an existing skid road in the current Town Forest to access his adjacent property for the purpose of logging with the provision that the Vermont Acceptable Management Practices and all applicable laws regarding erosion control be followed and that the Selectboard requests that the Huntington Conservation Commission inspect the site at the conclusion of the work and report back to the Selectboard on their findings. Passed unanimously with 3 members present and voting. Members suggested the new county forester inspect the site upon conclusion.</p> <p>Clerk: Rebecca noted that Terry Ryan gave his resignation as clerk. He is willing to stay on until another one is found. <u>Action:</u> She will post a notice on the Front Porch Forum.</p> <p>Catamount Trail Association Easement: The public information meeting for the Town Forest Easement is scheduled for Monday Feb 22, 2016 @ 7:30. <u>Action:</u> Sheri, Darlene and Rebecca will attend, and provide an overview and answer questions.</p> <p>Stormwater Grant: Darlene said the town has to provide a quality assurance plan to the Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission to meet EPA requirements. Ann Smith with Friends of the Winooski will write the plan.</p> <p>Next month's meeting: HCC will focus on the work plan and town forest public forum. <u>Action:</u> Sheri Lynn will announce the forum at Town Meeting. Darlene will send Rebecca Andrea Morganti's contact information. She is on the Hinesburg Selectboard and instrumental in development of the village's town forests. Rebecca will discuss TF management with her.</p>
<p>Adjourn MOTION</p>	<p>MOTION: Rebecca motioned and Darlene seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2050. Passed unanimously.</p>
	<p>10 March 2016 – Next Meeting date at the Huntington Public Library 13 February 2016 – Draft/unapproved minutes sent to Town Clerk for website posting 10 March 2016 – Final/approved minutes approved 11 March 2016 – Approved minutes sent to Town Clerk for recording & website posting</p>