

Waterbury Conservation Commission Draft Meeting Minutes – 9/11/2018

Present: Allan Thompson, Steve Hagenbuch, Mike Hedges, Joan Beard, Krista Battles, Erin Hurley, Katrina VanTyne, Nick Waringa, Tracy Sweeney

1. Agenda approved.

2. Minutes approved.

- Note: Concerning the matter of “conserved land” as referred to under “Budget Discussion,” bullet 4, the Conservation Commission would like to record that there is not a high percentage of easement conserved land in the town, however there is a good deal of state-owned land that does not generate tax revenue for the town.

3. Town Planning Discussion

- Joan and Allan attended a public Planning Board meeting in which Allan presented the Shuttlesville Wildlife Corridor (SWC) map and asked that it be included as a layer in the zoning review map.
 - If the map was to be included in the process it would likely have to undergo presentation/discussion in a public forum.
- It was instead decided that the map be considered as a “bulled item” during the rezoning process.
- The concern from the Planning Board is that inclusion of the map may limit the potential.
- The Waterbury Conservation Commission (WCC) has thus identified a process with the goal of sharing the SWC with the public in the future.
- The WCC should send representatives to the Planning Board public hearing to raise the map as a concern moving forward in the rezoning process.
- The town planning board has said, in writing, that they would like to conduct a scenic resource assessment for the next review and amendment of the town plan.
- Thanks to all who have taken the time to attend these Planning Board meetings!

4. Shuttlesville Updates

- Steve will be writing an article for the Shuttlesville Hill Partnership on black bears.
- **Fundraising**
 - We have canvassing volunteers who will begin fundraising efforts with a focus on private donors.
 - There is a volunteer training session from 5pm-7pm on September 20th at the Green Mountain Club.
 - Fundraising will begin in early 2019, with the hope of securing our fundraising goal in a year’s time.
- **Patagonia Event**
 - Allan gave a brief presentation on the SWC at the event at the Trailwear store.

5. Shutesville Fall Event Ideas

- There is a fall outdoor walk in the near future, with dates and event details to be announce in the near future. Stay tuned!

6. Waterbury Land Initiative (WLI) Updates

- The WLI is in the process of finalizing their bi-laws so they can register with the state as a non-profit.
- There is a walk on a potential property that will occur this Thursday with representatives from the State of Vermont.

7. Association of Vermont Conservation Commission Annual Summit

- The meeting will occur at Green Mountain College on September 29th and is titled, "Caring for Vermont's Waters."

8. Other

- Tracy will be meeting with the Select Board to officially become a Waterbury Conservation Commission member.
- There are plans in the works to extend the Green Mountain Byway significantly in the near future.
- Return on Investment for conservation report suggests that money invested in conservation can provide a substantial return on investment for the areas in which they are located. Thus, conservation may financially benefit a town in ways that are not directly related to tax revenue.
 - There is an economic value to conservation.
 - This report may be helpful in future grant writing endeavors.