



Waterbury Conservation Commission

Notes of April 12, 2022 discussion

This was not an official meeting of the Commission as there was no quorum

Meeting Notes

In person and via teleconference

Commission attendees: Joan Beard, Steve Hagenbuch, Tracy Sweeney, Billy Vigdor,

Commissioner Absence: Allan Thompson, Kelsey Applegate

Two persons from the public attended: Jillian Sacket, Erica Fuller

THERE WAS NO QUORUM AND NO OFFICIAL ACTION WAS TAKEN. THE PURPOSE OF THESE NOTES IS TO INFORM THE COMMISSION OF THE DISCUSSION

- Meeting convened 6:05 pm
- Two members of the public attended, participated and are considering joining the Commission.
- Billy reported on a survey of commissioners to determine the available resources. He reported that the time commitment of commissioners will ebb and flow based on the demands on commissioner's time from their day-to-day activities. He also reported that more time would be devoted to the Commission efforts depending upon whether the efforts line up with the interests of the individual commissioners. The time available ranged from about 25 hours to 40 hours per month (not including the monthly meeting), depending upon the factors above.
 - The Commission discussed the importance of focusing efforts on those matters of importance to the commissioners, recognizing that the commissioners do not have all the same priorities. This would require aligning the goals and projects with the majority of the commissioner's interest. The inventory was still considered to be a valid Commission effort. There was also a discussion indicating that commissioners should not view themselves as being limited from leading or undertaking additional efforts.
- The commissioners also discussed the process of conducting the inventory. Key points of discussion were getting focus on the scope and questions in the inventory, goals of the inventory, reaching out to stakeholders, and getting access to expert assistance.



- As to scope, the discussion focused on the role of the inventory. Some expressed a need for the Commission to stay within its authority and scope of expertise. Others reflected the need to ensure that when considering conservation, the Town may have competing and sometimes conflicting interests. Thus, the inventory and communication with stakeholder is likely to go beyond conservation groups.
- As to the goals, there was a request that the Commissioners each identify three goals of the inventory to help focus the effort.
 - There was a discussion of using or starting with the Town's 2013 survey and updating that.
- The consensus was to reach out to Jens Hilke and arrange for him to meet with the Commission to help. Steve will reach out to Jens.
- Linda (Treasurer) reported on her meeting with Bill Shepeluk. Linda reported that Bill thought that the Commission effort to reach out to other stakeholders was a great idea. He also indicated that we should spend the budgeted money. He welcomed the Commission's efforts. There was a short discussion of the role and funding the Waterbury Conservation Fund.
- Billy agreed to pursue what it will take to renew the Commission's membership in the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissioners.
- Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Billy Vigdor
May 1, 2022