



Conservation Commission

Minutes DRAFT Dated 01-03-24 (K Applegate)

Meeting of December 12, 2023

Present: Kelsey Applegate, Meg Baldor, Anna Black, Marcy Blauvelt, Malachi Brennan, Marty Johansen, Stacey Lambert, Amy Marshall-Carney, Billy Vigdor

Absent: None

Public: Josh Lincoln

- **New Commissioner Introductions**
 - The commissioners each introduced themselves and their backgrounds.
- **Agenda Modification**
 - No agenda modifications were proposed.
- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Billy presented the November minutes. Marty moved and Marcy seconded a motion to approve the October 2023 minutes without change. The Commission approved the minutes 9-0.
- **WCC Sub-Committee Progress Updates and Discussion**
 - Amy presented updates about the CVM Town Map Integration Subcommittee
 - The subcommittee discussed ways to use and publicize output of the Community Mapping Exercise, including overlaying the output onto existing town maps.
 - Some of the town maps need updating, which could limit the value of overlaying data
 - Jenz Hilke advised the subcommittee not to overlay the data onto other maps because this could be convoluting with too much data, and could misrepresent the overall town opinion with only a select amount of inputs
 - Amy asked the commission to consider the purpose of the Community Mapping results to guide how best to publicize and use them.
 - Some commissioners believe that the mapping exercise did not capture enough respondents (just over 1% of population) to represent town opinion.
 - Some commissioners suggested the data could be used as one source of town input to guide projects and efforts, but that other information should also be solicited.
 - Shutesville Hill Wildlife corridor Data Subcommittee

- Marcy and Amy attended the VT Strategy Initiative review concerning Act 59
 - Amy discussed efforts to review critical documents used by Development Review Board. The subcommittee is prioritizing which documents they will be able to review.
 - Billy explained that in May the DRB would be turning toward conservation concerns in their bylaws; the subcommittee should strive to have recommendations by then.
 - There was a discussion about the relationship between the conservation commission and the DRB, including that the conservation commission can advise the DRB according to bylaws
 - Bylaws/Legal Subcommittee
 - The subcommittee discussed the purpose of bylaws and started researching other towns' bylaws
 - The Bylaw Subcommittee and the Shuttesville Hill Subcommittee are both reviewing other towns' bylaws. They are tracking their efforts on the Google Drive
 - Billy recommended coordinating with the Shuttesville Hill Wildlife Corridor to assist each other with reviews
- **WCC Bylaws Update**
 - Marty is working on simplifying our bylaws, removing items he doesn't believe apply to the bylaws, and incorporate insight from other towns' bylaws. There was a discussion around aligning the commission's responsibilities, authorities, and capabilities.
 - Sample bylaws were mentioned from Monkton, Stowe, and the Association of conservation commissions
- **Annual Report and Budget**
 - Billy will distribute these to the conservation commission for further discussion at a future meeting
- **Hope Davey Planting**
 - The park will be revegetated this spring
 - The Friends of the Winooski advised that a set path is needed from the park to the stream or visitors to the park will make their own path
 - The commission discussed that some invasive species have been found at the park
- **Adjournment**
 - Made moved and seconded a motion to adjourn 7:42

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelsey Applegate