

Draft Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
May 6, 2019

Members Present: Angie Emerson, Dana Hazen, Mary Hutchins, Tom Kahl, Katie Mann, Lee Michaelides and chair Jon Bouton.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Alan Johnson.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Jct. on Monday, May 6, 2019 in Room 2. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Tom Kahl suggested adding HCC Stewardship Awards. The Commission agreed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of April 8th. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved as written by unanimous consent.
3. **HCC Stewardship Awards:** Dana Hazen noted that he suggested establishing an annual HCC Awards Program for outstanding land stewardship. Tom Kahl noted that the purpose should be promote conservation and a greater awareness of it through publicizing the awards. The HCC agreed. Lee Michaelides will develop a statement of intent for the HCC Stewardship Awards Program.
4. **Annual Election of HCC Officers:** Jon Bouton reported that after serving as chair for seven years, he would like to step down and allow someone else to serve. Vice-chair Dana Hazen stated that he would continue to serve as vice-chair, but is too busy with his business to take on the role of chair. Tom Kahl was asked if he is willing to serve as chair. Tom agreed. Jon was asked if he would serve as treasure. Jon agreed. Angie Emerson made a motion to nominate Tom Kahl as chair, Dana Hazen as vice-chair and Jon Bouton as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Katie Mann and unanimously approved. Tom agreed to assume the position of chair following conclusion of this meeting. The HCC agreed.
5. **End of Year Expenditures:** Matt Osborn reported that Finance Director Gail Ostrout requested a list of all anticipated expenditures from each department through the end of the fiscal year (June 30th) and identify priorities. Matt noted that funds for Green-Up Day, membership dues and trails work materials were listed as priorities and educational materials was listed as less critical given the lack of a plan to spend the funds.
6. **Green-Up Day 2019:** Matt Osborn reported that Green-Up Day was a success. The weather cooperated and there was a good turnout. Matt noted that there was a steady stream of volunteers that picked up Green-Up bags the two weeks before Green-Up Day. He noted that the Town Hall dumpster was nearly full and the Quechee dumpster about ¾ full. Matt will be receiving information on quantities and volunteers later this week. Matt reported that HCC members Angie Emerson, Tom Kahl, Jon Bouton and Dana Hazen participated on Green-Up Day. With another volunteer (Tom McCleary) the HCC did pick-ups at the Maanawaka Conservation Area, the end of Wallace Road and near the Exit 11 interchange. Jon Bouton suggested collaborating with Prime Subaru next year since Subaru is a major Green-Up Day sponsor and has a dumpster at their dealership on Sykes Mountain Avenue.
7. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party Recycling:** Tom Kahl reported that he did research on Vermont recycling laws and spoke with Bob Vahey, Manager of the Hartford Solid Waste, Recycling and Transfer Center about recycling in Hartford. Bob agreed to attend a future HCC Meeting. Tom distributed educational materials that the HCC could provide at the Block Party. Regarding recycling at the Block Party, Matt spoke to Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler. Scott works with the Hartford Community Coalition. Scott stated that the Community Coalition would welcome assistance with recycling at the event. The Conservation Commission would like to provide an alternative to bottled water such as using water coolers and asking people to bring water bottles. There was discussion about possibly

working on composting at the event, but agreement that this year, the HCC should focus on recycling. Matt Osborn agreed to contact Block Party Coordinator Emily Zanleoni. Katie Mann volunteered to look into compostable cups. Lee Michaelides and Alan Johnson volunteered to investigate the donation of new water bottles.

8. **Stream Restoration:** Dana Hazen reported that Natural Resource Conservation Service has funding for a program to install wood in streams as a way of enhancing habitat and flood resilience. Dana is aware of a three mile segment of stream in Piermont, New Hampshire where this was done. Dana noted that he will be doing the same on a stream segment in Orford. Jon Bouton noted that the White River Partnership has been doing this work for several years.
9. **Natural Resources Review:** Jon Bouton reported that the letters to property owners have been signed and will be mailed out this week.
10. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Selectboard will be discussing the Draft Town Plan at their meeting tomorrow evening. Selectboard public hearings on the Draft Town Plan are scheduled for May 21st and June 4th.
11. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that since the current Plan expires in July, staff will begin work on a modest update of the Plan.
12. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Matt Osborn reported that Angie Emerson and Matt will be meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hausler later this week to discuss the process to use the trails assessment to move forward.
13. **VYCC Trails Crew for Town Forest Trails Work:** Matt Osborn reported that he has been in touch with staff of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps about scheduling a crew to spend two weeks in the Town Forest this year to do trail work. Matt suggested scheduling the work for the fall when a more experienced trails crew will be available. The HCC agreed. The HCC needs to set up a meeting with VYCC staff to look at possible projects. Matt will follow-up.
14. **Town Forest Trail Outing:** Matt Osborn noted that a trails work outing is scheduled for the Town Forest on Saturday, May 11th. After several HCC members indicated that they will be out of town, the HCC agreed to change the date to Monday, May 27th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Jon Bouton volunteered to develop a list of projects to work on.
15. **Hurricane of 1938:** Jon Bouton reported that the April 23rd presentation by author Steve Long about the Hurricane of 1938 was very good and well-attended.
16. **Vernal Pool Walk:** Jon Bouton reported that the April 20th vernal pool walk was well-attended and plenty of salamanders were caught and then released. Biologist Steve Faccio participated in the event.
17. **Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study for the Connecticut River Watershed:** Lee Michaelides reported that he submitted a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers with some issues important to the Conservation Commission.
18. **Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3rd at the Quechee Library. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and follow a wildflower walk at the David Chang Conservation Area beginning at 6:00 p.m. Jon noted that he invited a representative from the New England Wildflower Society. Those interested in carpooling can meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall or 5:45 at the Quechee Library. Matt Osborn noted that the July 1st HCC Meeting will take place at the Wilder Club at 7:30 p.m. and follow a hike on the Hazen Trail that begins at 6:00 p.m.
19. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.