

**Draft Minutes of the**  
Hartford Conservation Commission  
March 4, 2019

**Members Present:** Angela Emerson, Dana Hazen, Mary Hutchins, 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, March 4, 2018 in Room 2. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. He announced that Katie Mann was appointed to the HCC by the Selectboard. He also noted that Katie and Tom Kahl are both out of state and unable to attend this evening's meeting.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of February 4<sup>th</sup>. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved as written by unanimous consent.
3. **HCC Priorities:** Jon Bouton asked the HCC if they had anything to add to last month's discussion of priorities. There were no additions. The HCC reviewed the list of priorities and the timeline for HCC discussion.
4. **HCC Stewardship Awards:** Dana Hazen suggested developing a HCC awards program for outstanding land stewardship. There was discussion and widespread agreement to undertake an awards program. Jon Bouton suggested developing a statement of intent for it. Lee Michaelides volunteered.
5. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Jon Bouton reported that revisions to the Draft Natural Resources Chapter were completed. Matt Osborn noted that the Draft Town Plan has been distributed and the Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Matt noted that following Selectboard adoption of the Plan, staff will begin work on the next update. Jon noted that this will provide the HCC more time to consider other changes and updates.
6. **Natural Resources Review:** Jon Bouton reported that he will send out letters to property owners in the coming week.
7. **Town Forest Recreation Plan:** Matt Osborn noted that the Recreation Plan needs to go back to the Selectboard for them to consider adoption. He suggested scheduling it for April. Angie noted that she is out of town from April 1<sup>st</sup> returning April 9<sup>th</sup>. The HCC agreed. Jon Bouton suggested adopting the Plan conceptually and list the things that the HCC plans to do.
8. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Angie Emerson reported that the HCC met with Sean Ogle of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to discuss the trails assessment. She noted that the next step will be to meet with the mountain bike community. Jon Bouton stated that he started to research trail markers for intersections and that they should be ordered in the coming weeks for installation this spring.

9. **Town Forest Snowshoe:** Angie Emerson reported that six people attended the Annual HCC Snowshoe outing at the Town Forest. She stated that it was a really good event. She suggested selecting a date now and submitting to the Green Mountain Club to get on their calendar and help promote the event. Angie suggested the second Saturday in February which is February 8<sup>th</sup>. The HCC agreed.
10. **Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Jon Bouton reported that CROH will be sponsoring a workshop on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Bugbee Senior Center on the Hurricane of 1938 by Steve Long, author of the book “38”.
11. **Methodist Church Mission Sunday:** Jon Bouton reported that the White River Junction Methodist Church invited the HCC to speak at their monthly Mission Sunday talks sometime in 2019. Jon responded that it is an opportunity for the HCC to promote their work and agreed to attend sometime this summer.
12. **Coffee with Committees:** Jon Bouton reported that there was a small turnout at the Coffee with Committees event prior to Town Meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He did note that he did talk to several people about the work of HCC.
13. **Announcements/Reports:**
  - a. Vernal Pool Walk: Jon Bouton reported that the annual Vernal Pool Walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.
14. **Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
15. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.