

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
April 8, 2019

Members Present: Dana Hazen, Mary Hutchins, Tom Kahl, Katie Mann, 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, April 8, 2019 in Room 312. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. He welcomed new member Katie Mann to the HCC.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Dana Hazen suggested adding HCC awards. The Commission agreed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of March 4th. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved as written by unanimous consent.
3. **Green-Up Day 2019:** Matt Osborn reported that Green-Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th. He noted that we've had several school groups, businesses, scouts and community groups participate in Green-Up Day regularly. Matt noted that Green-Up bags are expected to arrive around April 22nd and dumpsters will arrive at the Town Hall and Quechee Green on Wednesday, May 1st and will be picked up on Tuesday, May 7th. He stated that the HCC normally has a project on Green-up Day that volunteers can participate alongside the HCC. Matt encouraged HCC members to help out on Green-Up Day. Katie Mann can't make it on the 4th, but volunteered to visit the dumpsters the days after the 4th until the dumpsters are hauled away on May 7th. Jon Bouton stated that he is available on the 4th.

Matt reported that he was contacted by an employee at Jake's Market who wanted to distribute Green-Up bags. Matt noted that bags are distributed at the Town Hall and Quechee Library and there is a finite number of bags ranging between 500-600. He stated that he is very cautious about bag distribution to ensure that there are enough Green-up bags to get through Green-Up Day. He added that limiting the locations ensures that bags are used judiciously. Both sites have a map and a list provided for volunteers to sign up for road segments. Matt monitors the number of bags and the sign up list. Matt also noted that publicity has already started with information on where bags are available. The HCC would like to make Green-Up bags more easily available to the public and see if we can get more bags in the future. Katie Mann suggested moving from maps to an on-line sign-up. She volunteered to look into it.

4. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party Recycling:** Jon Bouton reported that the Conservation Commission is hoping to incorporate recycling in to the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party event in June. Tom Kahl thinks 4-5 bins would be enough. Matt Osborn will talk to Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler about it. Jon noted that the Conservation Commission usually has a display table. The HCC agreed. Alan Johnson suggested an alternative to bottled water. Jon volunteered to talk to Block Party Coordinator Emily Zandleoni. Katie Mann suggested providing information on recycling. Tom volunteered to research Vermont legislation.
5. **Natural Resources Review:** Jon Bouton reported that the letters are ready for printing and will go out this week.
6. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission requested additional information on the Earth Resources section and agriculture and forest products. Matt noted that the information was provided in the most recent draft which includes

a new section on the working landscape. Matt also noted that there is a new chapter “Flood Resilience” that is being added to the Town Plan as a precaution in case the Hazard Mitigation Plan is not updated prior to the TRORC review of the Town Plan. He noted that Selectboard hearings on the Draft Town Plan are scheduled for May 7th and May 21st. Matt stated that following Selectboard adoption of the Plan, staff will begin work on the next update in the fall.

7. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that staff is working on an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. He noted that the State applied for a grant on behalf of the Town to update the Plan, but the Town is still waiting to hear if it will be funded. Since the current Plan expires on June 24th, staff will begin work on a modest update of the Plan.
8. **HCC Stewardship Awards:** Dana Hazen presented a list of folks he thinks are worthy of recognition by the HCC for outstanding land stewardship. Jon Bouton noted that HCC member Lee Michaelides is developing a statement of intent for the awards.
9. **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 that the HCC working group meet to discuss presenting the Plan to the Selectboard. The HCC agreed.
10. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Matt Osborn suggested meeting with Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hausler to discuss the process to use the trails assessment to move forward. The HCC agreed.
11. **Hurricane of 1938:** Jon Bouton reported that author Steve Long of Strafford will be discussing his book about the Hurricane of 1938 on Tuesday, April 23rd at the Bugbee Senior Center. Steve will discuss what would happen if a hurricane of that magnitude hit the Upper Valley today. The workshop is sponsored by the Community Resilience Organization Hartford.
12. **Town Forest Trail Outing:** Katie Mann noted that a trails work outing is scheduled for the Town Forest on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. She suggested provided food for volunteers. The HCC agreed. Jon Bouton volunteered to develop a list of projects to work on May 11th.
13. **Vernal Pool Walk:** Jon Bouton reported that the vernal pool walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m. to noon. He noted that Biologist Steve Faccio will be participating in the event. Matt Osborn noted that Steve was the author of the Town Forest Amphibian Inventory.
14. **Wright Reservoir:** Alan Johnson asked the Conservation Commission what they think about the restoration of the dam at Wright Reservoir. It is currently on the back burner due to the high cost. Tom Kahl noted that it is an expensive project. Jon Bouton added that from an ecological perspective, there are trade-offs for either option.
15. **Open Lands of the Former Hurricane Reservoirs:** Jon Bouton suggested that the area of the former reservoirs should be kept open for greater habitat diversity. The HCC agreed and suggested that it would be a good project for the Hartford Area Career Technology Center’s Natural Resources class.
16. **Spring Posting Town Forest:** Jon Bouton suggested an alternative to posting closed trail signs this spring that would include a notice to request people stay off the trails when they are wet to avoid impacting the trails. The notice could be posted on the Hartford List Serve as well. The HCC agreed.
17. **Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 6th.
18. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.