

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
June 3, 2019

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

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission Planner Paige Greenfield.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Quechee Library, 1957 Quechee Main Street on Monday, June 3, 2019. The meeting followed a site visit to the David Chang Conservation Area that abuts the Ottawaquechee River, Route 4 and the Hartland town line. The site contains some rare plants and an increasing amount of invasive plants. Tom Kahl called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Tom presented former chair Jon Bouton with a plaque made by Mary Hutchins and a card signed by Conservation Commission members in appreciation of his seven years of service as chair.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Tom Kahl asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Tom Kahl asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of May 6th. Being none, Tom stated that the minutes are approved as written by unanimous consent.
3. **Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission:** Planner Paige Greenfield of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) was present to learn more about the work of the Conservation Commission and to inform the Commission about the services provided by TRORC. Paige noted that her job is split in half between planning and communications. Paige is a resident of Wilder and sits on the Hartford Energy Commission. Paige discussed services provided by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission. Tom Kahl discussed the priorities of the Conservation Commission. Jon Bouton noted the issue of invasive plants and rare plants at the David Chang Conservation Area. Paige suggested inquiring with the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program.
4. **HCC Stewardship Awards:** Lee Michaelides will develop a statement of intent for the HCC Stewardship Awards Program.
5. **Stream Restoration:** Dana Hazen described the work he will be doing on a stream segment in Orford as a way of enhancing habitat and flood resilience. Funding is provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service through the Ecosystem Restoration Program. Lee Michaelides noted that there have been flooding and erosion on Podunk Brook in West Hartford that we might want to look at. Paige Greenwood suggested looking into funding through the High Meadows Fund. Jon Bouton suggested contacting the White River Partnership. Katie Mann volunteered to contact the White River Partnership. Dana Hazen volunteered to map the Podunk Brook watershed.
6. **Natural Resources Review:** Tom Kahl reported that letters to property owners went out last month. He asked if Jon Bouton or Matt Osborn have heard back from any of the property owners. Both responded no. Jon agreed to send a note to one property owner and send follow-up e-mails to businesses on the list.
7. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party Recycling:** Tom Kahl reported that the Conservation Commission table will be next to Casella's table at the Block Party. Tom noted that he will coordinate with Casella about providing information on recycling to the public. Katie Mann reported that she will provide a flyer on composting options. Regarding reusable water bottles, Matt Osborn reported that the Hartford Community Coalition will provide 300 new reusable water bottles at the event from HP Roofing. Katie reported that the Hartford Water Works will provide 20 water bottles and Alan Johnson will provide another 20.

8. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Selectboard held their first public hearing on the Draft Town Plan on May 21st. The second public hearing is scheduled for tomorrow evening. Matt noted that there was discussion about the Natural Resources chapter including the air quality section and the climate change sections at the public hearing, but the Selectboard decided not to make changes. Matt noted that following adoption of the Town Plan, staff will be working on the next update of the Town Plan beginning in the fall and it is expected to last 18-24 months. Paige Greenfield noted that she has been working on Natural Resource sections of town plans and has come up with language on soils. Matt requested a copy of the section.
11. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that the town has been waiting to hear several months to hear about a grant application submitted to FEMA for an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Since the current Plan expires in late July, staff is working on a modest update of the Plan.
12. **Green-Up Day 2019:** Matt Osborn reported that there were 331 volunteers for Green-Up Day and 3.14 tons of waste collected. He was pleased to report that only 17 tires were collected, a 20 year low.
13. **Town Forest Trails Work Outing:** Tom Kahl reported that the May 27th trails work outing went well and a great deal accomplished. Besides Conservation Commission members, there were five members of the public. The next trails work outing is scheduled for Saturday, September 14th. Katie Mann suggested inviting Hartford students to do trails work as part of their community service requirement. Tom Kahl noted that Hartford High School students worked on a section of the Appalachian Trail in West Hartford and did an excellent job.
14. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Angie Emerson reported that the Town Forest Trails Working group will be meeting on Monday, June 17th to begin work reviewing the trails assessment.
15. **Hazen Trail:** Tom Kahl reported that the Norwich Conservation Commission did some trails work on the Hazen Trail. He asked if anyone from the Conservation Commission was interested in being responsible for maintaining the Hazen Trail in Hartford. Angie Emerson volunteered.
16. **VYCC Trails Crew for Town Forest Trails Work:** Matt Osborn reported that following the Trails Working Group recommendations, he will coordinate a meeting with staff of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to discuss specific work for the VYCC crew to be done this fall. There was discussion about how best to use the VYCC crew.
17. **Next Meeting:** Tom Kahl noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 1st at the Wilder Club at 7:30 p.m. and follow a hike on the Hazen Trail that begins at 6:00 p.m.
18. **Adjournment:** Tom Kahl thanked Paige Greenfield for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
19. **Meeting Action Items:**
 - a) Lee Michaelides will develop a statement of intent for the HCC Stewardship Awards Program.
 - b) Katie Mann volunteered to contact the White River Partnership.
 - c) Dana Hazen volunteered to map the Podunk Brook watershed.
 - d) Tom Kahl noted that he will coordinate with Casella about providing information on recycling to the public.
 - e) Katie Mann reported that she will provide a flyer on composting options.
 - f) Jon Bouton agreed to send a note to one property owner and send follow-up e-mails to businesses on the list.
 - g) Angie Emerson volunteered to be responsible for maintaining the Hazen Trail within Hartford.