

**Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
June 4, 2018**

Members Present: Angie Emerson, Mary Hutchins, Tom Kahl, 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, June 4, 2018 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. There were none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton noted a correction to the Draft Minutes of May 7, 2018. He asked if there are any other corrections. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent with the noted correction.
3. **Natural Resources Review:** Tom Kahl reviewed the draft letters to property owners of eleven of the highest ranked non-governmental properties in Hartford based on natural resources. He proceeded to review each of the properties. Lee Michaelides cautioned about making sure you use the right language to avoid coming off as being bureaucratic. He volunteered to review the letters.
4. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Town Plan Steering Committee is planning five community meetings to solicit public input for the plan update. The following are the dates, location and topics for the meetings.

Monday June 18	Town Plan 101 and Important Community Priorities	Hartford High School
Monday June 25	Energy and Transportation	VINS
Wednes. July 11	Community Facilities/Services/Historic Preservation	West Hartford Library
Monday July 16	Natural Resources and Land Use	Town Hall OR Dothan Brook School
Monday July 23	Housing and Economic Development	Town Hall OR Dothan Brook School

5. **Town Forest Recreation Planning Project:** Matt Osborn reported that the Town Forest Steering Committee met on May 9th to review the Draft Vision Framework and Draft Strategies from consultant SE Group. Matt noted that the general reaction of the Steering Committee was the Town Forest should be a forest and not a park. A second Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7th. Matt noted that the Steering Committee was asked to prepare one response to the draft vision and strategies which will then be revised for the July 18th community meeting. Jon Bouton asked if consultant Arrowwood Environmental reviewed the Town Forest inventories prior to preparing the Natural Resource Guidance Toolkit. Matt responded that he will inquire. Matt handed out a flier for the July 18th community meeting.
6. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Jon Bouton reported that Steering Committee member Tim Schaal suggested numbering each of the trail intersections in the Town Forest. Jon noted that he made markers and installed about 1/3 of them during Trails Day. Angie Emerson volunteered to help Jon installing the remaining markers. Matt Osborn noted that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance is expected to complete the Town Forest trails assessment in the Town Forest this week.

7. **Town Forest Trail Signs:** Matt Osborn reported that he is working with Vermont Woodshop in Rutland on the trail sign order.
8. **Invasive Plants & Insects:** Jon Bouton reported that Wild Chervil is spreading throughout Hartford. He noted that former Conservation Commission member Karen Douville contacted the Highway Department about methods to reduce the spreading of invasive plants.

Jon Bouton reported that Dana Hazen volunteered to lead an invasive plant walk in July on his property to demonstrate treatment. Dana indicated that he could do the event on Saturday, July 14th or Saturday, July 21st. The HCC selected July 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 11: a.m. Tom Kahl asked Matt Osborn to prepare a flier for the event.
9. **Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Matt Osborn reported that CROH will be holding workshops on resilience with well-known resilience speakers. Ben Falk will speak on Friday, June 29th and Chuck Collins will speak on Friday, July 27th.
10. **TRORC Regional Plan:** Matt Osborn distributed Regional Plan updates on Rural Areas and Forest-based Conservation Areas. He suggested that the HCC review the draft and get comments to him fairly soon since the Plan update is winding down.
11. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:** Tom Kahl brought in materials for the HCC table for the Third Annual Block Party scheduled for Wednesday, June 6th at Lyman Point Park. The HCC agreed to have an information table and have literature on ticks, invasive plants and insects as well as HCC brochures and newsletters. Tom requested a flier for the invasive plant demonstration and results from Green-Up Day be completed for the Block Party. Matt Osborn agreed.
12. **Green-Up Day 2018:** Matt Osborn reported that Green-Up Day was a success. The weather was perfect and there was a strong turnout. Matt noted that there were 493 volunteers which is higher than previous years. He noted that the Town Hall dumpster had 1.5 tons and the Quechee Dumpster .97 tons. Total weight, including materials brought to the Recycling Center, was 3.88 tons which is consistent with the last two years. Jon Bouton offered to send thank you notes to businesses.
13. **Announcements/Reports:**
 - a. Ottawaquechee River Watershed Grant: Matt Osborn reported that a stream table demonstration was held at the VINS Science Symposium which hosted several elementary schools from around the area. The event centered around river dynamics and place-based nature connectivity. The stream table is scheduled to be at the Trek to Taste event in Woodstock and Old Homes Day in Hartland. Matt noted that the HCC could request the table for a Hartford event.
 - b. Clean Water Advisory Committee: Matt Osborn reported that the Clean Water Advisory Committee will be hosting Watershed Planner Danielle Owczarski at the July/August meeting to discuss the Draft Basin 9 (White River) Tactical Basin Plan. Matt plans to attend the meeting and report back to the HCC.
 - c. Trails Day: Jon Bouton reported that in spite of a small turnout at the Trails Day event in the Town Forest on Saturday, June 2nd, work was accomplished. Lee Michaelides noted that there was a big Trails Day event at Boston Lot the same day. Jon suggested holding the event another date next year. Alan Johnson suggested a trail adopter program as an alternative to a one-day event.
14. **Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 2nd.
15. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.