

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
July 1, 2019

Members Present: Jon Bouton, Angie Emerson, Katie Mann, Lee Michaelides and vice-chair Dana Hazen.
Staff Present: Selectboard Liaison Alan Johnson and Planner Matt Osborn.
Others Present: None.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Wilder Club, 78 Norwich Avenue, Wilder on Monday, July 1, 2019. The meeting followed a site visit to the Maanawaka Conservation Area. The site is located at the southern end of the Hazen Trail. Dana Hazen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Dana Hazen asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Dana Hazen asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of June 3rd. Being none, Dana stated that the minutes are approved as written by unanimous consent.
3. **Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission:** Matt Osborn asked if there was any follow-up from the meeting with Planner Paige Greenfield of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC). There was none, but consensus that it was a good meeting and that the HCC can benefit from working with TRORC.
4. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party Recycling:** Lee Michaelides reported that using recycled water bottles at the Block Party instead of plastic water bottles went well. Matt Osborn stated that he will get feedback from the Hartford Community Coalition. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission will look into eliminating Styrofoam containers and composting for next year's Block Party. Angie Emerson volunteered to investigate Styrofoam alternatives.
5. **HCC Priorities:** The Conservation Commission reviewed the list of HCC Priorities and programmed the items for future agendas.

There was discussion about the Town Forest timber harvesting and relationship with trails work. It was agreed to discuss at the August 5th meeting.
6. **HCC Stewardship Awards:** Lee Michaelides distributed a draft of the statement of intent for the HCC Stewardship Awards Program. He asked the HCC to review the draft for discussion at the 8/5 HCC Meeting.
7. **Stream Restoration:** Katie Mann reported that she contacted Greg Russ of the White River Partnership about Podunk Brook and a project to enhance habitat and flood resilience. Greg is familiar with Podunk Brook and is interested in working with the Conservation Commission on a flood resilience project. Dana Hazen presented a map of the Podunk Brook watershed that includes areas in Norwich and Hartford. It was agreed to follow-up with the White River Partnership, look at property ownership, contact the Green Mountain National Forest, contact the Upper Valley Land Trust and talk to the Norwich Conservation Commission.
8. **Town Forest Trails:** Angie Emerson reported that the Town Forest Trails Working Group met on June 17th to begin work reviewing the trails assessment. She noted that the meeting went well. The Trails Working Group is developing a work plan for trails work to be done this year and in the future. She discussed the process that the Town Forest Working Group will report back to the Town Forest Steering Committee and then present recommendations to the Conservation Commission who will present recommendation to the Selectboard. Matt Osborn added that the recommendations will go to the Selectboard the same time as the Selectboard acceptance of the Town Forest Recreation Plan. Angie stated

that the goal is to work things out with the Trails Working Group and to have a draft trails map for the Town Forest Trailhead Kiosk and town website by September 1st with notes that the trails are under review. Angie noted that it is important that decisions on trails be based on standards. Angie noted that Tom Kahl and Angie will number all trail intersections.

9. **VYCC Trails Crew:** Matt Osborn reported that we need to schedule a meeting with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to examine the trails work to be done this fall. Matt will coordinate. Katie Mann suggested being very specific with our work requests.
10. **Town Forest Illegal Camping:** Matt Osborn reported that the unauthorized tent was removed from the Town Forest and a notice posted that camping is only allowed for groups doing trails work or for educational purposes and Conservation Commission approval is required. Matt noted that the HCC should monitor the illegal camping. The HCC agreed.
11. **Maanawaka Conservation Area Management:** Matt Osborn asked the Conservation Commission for their thoughts on the Maanawaka Conservation Area following tonight's site visit. The HCC agreed to do work on a wet section of the Hazen Trail. Angie Emerson volunteered to blaze the Backwater Trail. Matt Osborn volunteered to order a trail sign denoting the end of the Backwater Trail.
12. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that the Selectboard adopted the amended Town Plan on June 4th. Angie Emerson requested that Matt Osborn e-mail the HCC the finalized Natural Resources chapter of the Town Plan.
13. **Hartford Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Matt Osborn reported that the town was awarded a grant from FEMA to hire a consultant to work on the update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. A working group of Resilient Hartford members has been formed to work with staff and the consultant on the update.
17. **Next Meeting:** Dana Hazen noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 5th at the Hartford Town Hall.
18. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.
19. **Meeting Action Items:**
 - a) Matt Osborn stated that he will get feedback from the Hartford Community Coalition on the Block Party recycling.
 - b) Angie Emerson volunteered to investigate Styrofoam alternatives for next year's Block Party.
 - c) Lee Michaelides asked the HCC to review the draft HCC Awards program for discussion at the 8/5 HCC Meeting.
 - d) It was agreed to follow-up with the White River Partnership, look at property ownership, contact the Green Mountain National Forest, contact the Upper Valley Land Trust and talk to the Norwich Conservation Commission.
 - e) Angie Emerson noted that Tom Kahl and Angie will number all trail intersections.
 - f) Matt will coordinate a meeting with the VYCC on Town Forest trails work.
 - g) The HCC agreed to monitor illegal camping in the Town Forest.
 - h) The HCC agreed to do work on a wet section of the Hazen Trail.
 - i) Angie Emerson volunteered to blaze the Backwater Trail.
 - j) Matt Osborn volunteered to order a trail sign denoting the end of the Backwater Trail.
 - k) Matt Osborn agreed to e-mail the HCC the finalized Natural Resources chapter of the Town Plan.