

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
July 2, 2018

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

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: None.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Jct. on Monday, July 2, 2018 in Room 2. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn suggested adding water quality testing. The HCC agreed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of June 4, 2018. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent as written.
3. **Natural Resources Review:** Tom Kahl thanked Lee Michaelides for editing the draft letters to property owners of eleven of the highest ranked non-governmental properties in Hartford based on natural resources. The letters are now ready to be mailed out. Matt agreed to print out the letters on HCC letterhead and assemble the enclosures.
4. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn reported that two public forums have been held on the Town Plan to date and three more are scheduled for July, including a forum on natural resources and land use. The June 25th forum on energy and transportation resulted in a crowd of 50+ at VINS. Matt noted that the discussions were very engaging. The comments will be used in the update of the Town Plan. The following are the dates, location and topics for the remaining community forums.

Wednesday July 11	Community Facilities/Services/Historic Preservation	West Hartford Library
Monday July 16	Natural Resources and Land Use	Dothan Brook School
Monday July 23	Housing and Economic Development	Hartford Town Hall

Jon Bouton noted that to ensure that we have working forests in Hartford, it is important that the Town allows the processing of forest products. He hopes that this will be addressed in the Town Plan.

5. **Town Forest Recreation Planning Project:** Matt Osborn reported that a community forum on the Town Forest Draft Vision and Strategies will be held on Wednesday, July 18th at the Town Hall. Matt is working on publicity for the forum. A Town Forest Steering Committee meeting will precede the 7:00 p.m. community forum at 5:00 p.m. on the 18th.
6. **Town Forest and Reservoir Road:** Dana Hazen reported that he will inquire with the Hartford Area Career Technology Center about doing water bar work on the Class 4 section of Reservoir Road that runs through the Town Forest.
7. **Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Matt Osborn reported that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance is nearing completion of the Town Forest trails assessment in the Town Forest. Matt stated that the Town Forest Steering Committee will meet sometime after the 7/18 community forum to discuss the results of the assessment.

8. Town Forest Trail Signs: Matt Osborn reported that the trail signs have arrived and Tom Kahl has primed the signs. A date to finish paint the signs is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11th at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

9. Invasive Plants & Insects: Jon Bouton reported that Dana Hazen and he met with Department of Public Works Director Hannah Tyler and Supervisor Jeremy Delisle about methods to reduce the spreading of invasive plants. Jon noted that the meeting was very encouraging. Jon and Dana offered to do a training with the road crew.

Jon Bouton reported that Dana Hazen volunteered to lead an invasive plant walk on Saturday, July 21st. Matt stated that he will publicize the event.

10. Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH): Matt Osborn reported that CROH held a focus group discussion at the Bugbee Senior Center for the Resilient Seniors Project on June 28th. CROH also held a workshop on resilience homesteads by Ben Falk on June 29th. The event attracted over 50 people. A second workshop is scheduled for Friday, July 27th with Chuck Collins. The topic is on Community Resilience and Social Equity. Matt reported that CROH is sponsoring a Community Action Day on Saturday, August 25th. CROH is teaming up with Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup which is focused on dealing with climate change at a regional level.

11. Announcements/Reports:

- a. Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: Jon Bouton reported that Tom Kahl and he staffed the HCC Table at the Annual Hartford Community Coalition Block Party. The event attracted more than 500 people. Jon stated that the event attracts a good cross section of people.
- b. Water Quality Testing: Jon Bouton reported that he is collecting water samples of the White River every two weeks. He will forward the HCC the results. Matt Osborn reported that Shawn Kelly is collecting water samples of the Ottauquechee River as well.
- c. HCC Opening: Matt Osborn reported that Shawn Kelly's term is up in August and he will not be seeking reappointment. As a result, there will be an opening on the HCC. Tom Kahl suggested listing the opening on the Hartford List Serv.

12. Next Meeting: Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 6th. Matt Osborn noted that he may be on vacation that week. He stated that he will make arrangements to ensure that the building is open for the meeting. Matt asked if someone could take minutes at the meeting in his absence. The HCC agreed.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.