

**Draft Minutes of the**  
Hartford Conservation Commission  
August 6, 2018

**Members Present:** Angie Emerson, Dana Hazen, Mary Hutchins, Tom Kahl, Shawn Kelley, Lee Michaelides and chair Jon Bouton.

**Staff Present:** None.

**Others Present:** Alan Johnson.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Jct. on Monday, August 6, 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. There were none.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of July 2, 2018. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent as written.
3. **Natural Resources Review:** Tom reported that the letters had been sent out to the selected landowners. He has not received any responses. Asked if others had, Mary said she knew that the Maple Row Farm family had received the letter, but had no additional comments at the time. Jon said that Gary Schall had contacted him directly. He had questions and Gary and Jon had a conversation while walking the property lines of Gary's property. His land abuts the Town Forest. Jon said they had a good conversation and Jon thinks Gary is open to further discussion regarding conservation in the future. Question raised: should we do a follow-up call to the landowners who received the letter? Dana asked Tom if he had phone numbers for the landowners, but Tom does not. That could be researched. After discussion, we will wait to see if additional responses are received. Jon suggested sending a follow up postcard to these landowners and also mention the flyer with links is now listed on the website. Tom will coordinate this with Matt after he returns from vacation.
4. **Hartford Town Plan Update:** The 5 meetings were held over a six week period and had good attendance. Angie was able to attend four of them. Town Manager Lee Pullar also attended a few. Mary attended the Land Use meeting. According to Alan, all of the data collected is still being processed and no conclusions have been made yet.
5. **Town Forest Recreation Planning Project:** Angie Emerson reported that attendance was low at the early Steering Committee meeting. Consultant Drew Pollack Bruce gave a good presentation, which was then repeated at the public meeting which followed. Several members of the local mountain bike club attended. Matt sent an email earlier suggesting some possible meeting dates in August. We also need the final plan from the SE Group.
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:** Angie Emerson reported that Sean Ogle of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance has completed the trails assessment of the town forest and will give a report to us soon. Angie feels we will need a public forum meeting with these results and a meeting of the sub-committee prior to this public meeting to be prepared.

8. **Town Forest Trail Signs:** Tom Kahl reported that the trail signs were painted. Angie has the list of where they are to be posted and she and Tom will get together and put the signs up.
9. **Backwater Trail Downed Trees:** Dana Hazen reported that the large tree that was across the Backwater Trail was removed.
10. **Invasive Plants & Insects:** Dana Hazen reported that several attended the invasive plant walk on July 21<sup>st</sup> and overall it went very well. He also reported that the new open spot (formerly old pasture #8) had a lot of old pines removed. One load of logs was taken from the site and the bulk was chipped up and shipped to the Ryegate Biomass Plant. Discussion is underway about whether the Brookside Farm will become a Christmas tree farm or a hardwood lot.
11. **Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Jon Bouton summarized the presentation that Ben Faulk gave to the 40 to 50 people on homesteading resilience on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The talk mainly focused on having working green spaces within developed areas. He touched on ways to control and use the water run-off and to make green spaces (like parks or small lots) productive. Chuck Collins also gave a presentation on July 27<sup>th</sup>. He touched on many subjects, but according to Jon and Alan, his talk focused mainly on the point that people of wealth are driving both our economic and political policies. Chuck feels that we all need to work together to ultimately survive.

Jon Bouton reported that Community Day is planned for Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> in the Upper Valley. Jon noted that 4 or 5 individual groups will be pulling people together in their neighborhoods or villages to work on projects. Groups are already being organized in White River Junction, West Hartford, the Maxfield Sports Complex (Jon to lead) and Joe Ranger Road in Quechee. Details are still being ironed out.

## 12. Announcements/Reports:

- a. Water Quality Testing: Shawn Kelley is pulling samples from the Ottaquechee River and Jon Bouton is collecting from the White River. Samples from Shawn are driven to the UVM lab in Burlington. Samples from the White River are pulled in duplicate. One set goes to the lab. Samples are pulled every two weeks..
- b. Shawn Kelley's Stepping Down from HCC: Jon Bouton thanked Shawn for his service to the HCC. Shawn has been a member since 2012. Shawn apologized for leaving, but his growing family is taking all of his time. He offered to help the HCC on projects when and if he could in the future. The kids are his priority now. Jon presented Shawn with a small wood carved bird, a Thrush.
- c. HCC Opening: Jon Bouton will post on the list/serve that there is an opening on the HCC and that we are seeking a new member. Tom Kahl offered to take a printed copy of a listing to Quechee and West Hartford to post, where we do not presently have representatives.

13. **Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.