

Draft Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
September 10, 2018

Members Present: Angie Emerson, Tom Kahl 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, September 10, 2018 in Room 2. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

- 1. Natural Resources Review:** Matt Osborn reported that he has been working with Brenda Lamphere to make the changes to the HCC webpages. The HCC reviewed the changes and suggested additional changes. Tom Kahl noted that the HCC agreed to send a follow up note to the landowner mailing this summer and include the land conservation brochure. Jon volunteered to prepare the notes. Alan Johnson created a barcode to provide a direct link to the land conservation brochure.
- 2. HCC Budget:** Matt Osborn distributed a spreadsheet showing the HCC budget for the past several fiscal years.

HCC General Fund Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Budget (current budget)

• Travel & Training	\$175
• Memberships	\$250
• Green Up Day Contracted Services	\$2,000
• Educational Materials	\$400
• Forest Management	\$250
• <u>Conservation Fund</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	\$3,075

There was discussion about the approved current fiscal year 18/19 budget. Matt noted changes with the Green-Up Vermont going to the warrant article and the forest management fund being re-established for expenses related to materials and supplies in the Town Forest such as trail signs, kiosk, tools and trail improvements. Tom Kahl requested information on the actual expenditures for the fiscal year 17/18. Alan Johnson reported that the Selectboard is going through a new budget process that provides strategic guidance from the Selectboard with more detailed staff recommendations. There was discussion about re-establishing the annual appropriation to the conservation fund after several years not being funded. Alan suggested providing the Selectboard with justification for the fund.

There was discussion about the Green-Up Day budget and developing a list of illegal dumpsites and to start thinking about developing a budget to clean up the sites.

The HCC agreed to continue discussion of the budget at the October 1st meeting.

- 3. Town Forest Recreation Planning Project:** Matt Osborn reported that a Draft Plan is scheduled to be released the week of September 17th. He suggested scheduling a Town Forest Steering Committee meeting to discuss the draft the following week. It was agreed to schedule the meeting Thursday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m. Matt noted that the probable date to present the Plan to the Selectboard will be the October 23rd Selectboard meeting. Matt will make the request to get the item on the Selectboard agenda.

- 4. Town Forest and Reservoir Road:** Matt Osborn reported that a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps worked in the Town Forest two days in August. The work crew constructed two bridges and improved several water bars on the Class 4 section of Reservoir Road that runs through the Town Forest.
- 5. Town Forest Trail Signs:** Angie Emerson reported that the trail signs were installed in the Town Forest. She noted that she met a mountain biker who was very excited that the Conservation Commission is working on a trails map for the Town Forest.
- 6. Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Matt Osborn reported that he is waiting for the report from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance on the trails assessment they conducted this summer. Once the report is completed, it will be reviewed by the Town Forest Steering Committee.
- 7. Community Day:** Jon Bouton reported that the Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH) held a Community Day on August 25th which consisted of five projects around Hartford included a tree and shrub care, composting, cemetery clean-up, community garden clean-up and tree guild planting. Jon participated in the tree and shrub care event at the Maxfield Sports Park. He noted that there were several volunteers that worked on improving the conditions of twenty-five trees and six shrubs. Matt Osborn noted that CROH hopes to make Community Day an annual event.
- 8. Announcements/Reports:**
 - a. Water Quality Testing: Matt Osborn distributed an e-mail and slide from former HCC Member Shawn Kelley documenting the improvement in water quality on the Ottauquechee River over the last sixty years.
- 9. Next Meeting:** Matt Osborn noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 1st. August 6th.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.