

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
October 1, 2018

Members Present: Angie Emerson, Dana Hazen, 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, October 1, 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 were any changes or additions to the agenda. Tom Kahl requested that Story Walk be added to the agenda. The HCC agreed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections to the Draft Minutes of August 6th and September 10, 2018. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent as written.
3. **HCC Budget:** Matt Osborn distributed a spreadsheet showing the HCC expenditures over the last two fiscal years. Jon Bouton noted that the HCC has not spent all of its funds over the two year period. Matt Osborn noted that Green-Up Day expenditures vary from year to year primarily related to the number of tires collected. Discussion followed. Alan Johnson suggested providing the Selectboard with justification for reinstating the conservation fund. Lee Michaelides suggested contacting land trusts to get an idea of land and project costs. Jon noted that the Upper Valley Land Trust has case studies that could help. Dana Hazen noted that there are conservation projects other than conservation easements or land purchases. Angie Emerson made a motion to approve the HCC budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 to include the following:

• Travel & Training	\$175
• Memberships	\$250
• Green Up Day Contracted Services	\$2,000
• Educational Materials	\$400
• Forest Management	\$250
• <u>Conservation Fund (Reserve Fund)</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>
Total	\$6,075

The motion was seconded by Lee Michaelides and approved 6 to 0.

4. **Natural Resources Review:** Jon Bouton reported that he will be working on the follow-up letter to property owners.
5. **Town Forest Recreation Planning Project:** Angie Emerson reported that the Town Forest Steering Committee met on Thursday evening to review the Draft Recreation Plan prepared by consultant SE Group. She noted that it was a productive meeting and the process is going well. Matt Osborn is currently working on edits and will be e-mailing the changes to the Steering Committee for their review before sending the comments to the SE Group. A meeting to present the Draft Plan to the public will take place at the Wednesday, November 7th Selectboard Meeting. The Vermont Town Forest Summit with all ten towns involved in the project will take place in Richmond on Friday, November 9th. Jon Bouton, Tom Kahl, Angie and Matt plan on attending.

- 6. Town Forest Trails Assessment:** Angie Emerson reported that the Upper Valley Trails Alliance has completed the trails assessment. The next step is to update the trails map. She asked Dana Hazen if he can do that. He agreed. Jon and Angie will provide Dana with the information that he needs to make the update. Matt noted that he is hoping that the trail map can be updated in time to get to Consultant SE Group in time to be included in the Draft Recreation Plan to be presented at the November 7th Selectboard meeting. Angie noted that the Town Forest Steering Committee will be reviewing the trails assessment and will propose changes to trails based on the report. This will occur after the completion of the Recreation Management Plan.
- 7. Middle School Class & Town Forest:** Jon Bouton reported that Hartford Middle School teacher Trish Pfeiffer is teaching a segment on vernal pools and has been spending time in the Town Forest with her class. Jon will be meeting with the class in the Town Forest on Friday and visit the southern vernal pool.
- 8. Story Walk:** Tom Kahl reported that the Town Forest Steering Committee didn't think that Story Walk is appropriate for the Town Forest. He asked the HCC what they thought. The HCC agreed with the Steering Committee. Tom said he had heard that the Parks and Recreation Department has participated in Story Walk. He will inquire with them.
- 9. Town Forest Trail Signs:** Angie Emerson reported that the trail signs and intersection markers were installed in the Town Forest. She noted that there are extra markers.
- 10. Hartford Town Plan Update:** Matt Osborn suggested that the Conservation Commission Town Plan Working Group schedule a meeting to work on the update of the Natural Resources Chapter. Jon Bouton, Angela Emerson and Lee Michaelides agreed to meet with Matt on Friday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m.
- 11. Invasive Plants & Insects:** Jon Bouton reported that he is amazed at the rapid growth of the European Alder. Dana Hazen agreed. Jon is concerned that the invasive tree was spread by Tropical Storm Irene and will take up in many locations along the rivers.
- 12. Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Matt Osborn reported that CROH will be a co-sponsor for the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup fall workshop, Droughts & Downpours: Managing for Extremes on Tuesday, October 30th at Hypertherm. The workshop is free and a meal is provided, but you have to register for it. A tour of Hypertherm's rain gardens will be featured.
- 13. Announcements/Reports:**
 - a. HCC Opening: Jon Bouton noted the HCC still has an opening. He asked if an HCC member could post a notice on the Hartford Listserve. Tom Kahl agreed.
 - b. Town Forest Snowshoe: Angie Emerson reported that there will be a Green Mountain Club snowshoe outing at the Hartford Town Forest on Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 a.m. She asked if the HCC would like to be a co-sponsor. The HCC agreed.
- 14. Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton noted that the next HCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 5th.
- 15. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.