

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 19th, 2022; 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Phil Huffman, Bob Cook, Curt Lindberg, Bruno Grimaldi, James Donaldson, Chris Loomis, Ted Joslin, PJ Telep, Leo Laferriere

Members Absent:

Public in attendance:

Lindberg opens the meeting at 6:35 PM

Review and Approve Minutes – Minutes of November 21st, 2022 meeting.

MOTION by Phil to approve. James SECONDED. Bruno abstains as he was absent.

DISCUSSION: Correct the spelling of Leo's last name. Clarify motion order (motion, seconded, discussion, final vote) regarding Phil working with Brian Shupe on the MOU with VLT in the Tardy update section of the November minutes.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Roundtable – All

Telep suggests having a parcel map available during the meetings when discussing property owners.

Bob shares the status of bear initiative. Bob hasn't been as involved and is willing to pass participation on if anyone is interested.

Phil shares news of the Global Biodiversity Convention held in Montreal.

Curt shares news of a Vermont Biodiversity effort. Held a planning workshop back in October. Developing momentum to raise awareness across the state.

Scrag Mountain Trail Improvement – Update on Proposals – James

Received 2 proposals to review.

Ended up with one solid bid from a local trail outfit out of Braintree, VT. They could start in July. References were provided.

Also received a bid from Colorado that was out of budget.

James recommends reviewing before the next WCC meeting so that motion can be made at the next meeting on selection.

Thanks James for all the work on the RFP, etc.

Invasive Species Management – 2023 UVM Interns and Field Naturalist Proposal – Curt

Did not find a student for the project. The Director of the UVM program recommends Curt submit it again next year.

Curt is talking with the coordinator of UVM summer interns to continue knotweed management work in the three towns (Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston). The interns get college credit and the university pays for two weeks of their work. The knotweed management group should know early in 2023 if there is a good match for interns.

Virginia Farley Memorial at Tardy Property Update and Role of Conservation Commission – Phil, Curt

Phil went to the Select Board meeting in December to update the Board on the project. Outlined the conclusion that the WCC came to on the November 21st meeting such as need to develop a management plan. Also discussed the MOU with VLT. The Select Board endorsed the MOU. VLT won't close out the fundraising link on their website as they expect additional contributions. VLT expects to transfer funds to the town later in the first quarter of 2023. These funds are to be used for creating the memorial and maintenance.

Fundraising yielding good results at \$46000 so far. Possibly doing a Spring fundraising.

Phil hasn't started drafting a management plan yet. Vermont Land Trust (VLT) is willing to assist in fashion with developing the management plan as they have done in the past. Phil to check with VLT on this.

Leo asks what the role of WCC is for the memorial. Phil provides a summary of the history and progress on the memorial to refresh everyone on where we are currently.

Curt asks if there have been discussions with the Select Board on which organization is implementing the memorial plan.

Chris asks us to think about the impact of providing parking on the parcel given its proximity to the swim hole and would the park get used for parking instead of its intended memorial use.

Leo - Is the WCC charged with installing the memorial elements? Phil-That is up to us in collaboration with the Friends of Farley group.

Curt - As it moves towards implementation, could the Friends group discuss with the Select Board and WCC on the role of the town with implementation and maintenance.

Tri-Town Conservation Commission Meeting – Curt

Curt spoke with Fayston CC and they thought it would be helpful if a future meeting could involve all three conservation commissions (Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston) to discuss current activities and

opportunities to collaborate. Bruno thinks the same organizations should be invited versus just the three commissions. Phil agrees but thinks to have part of the agenda for just the commissions would be too long to do in one meeting. So perhaps break it into two events; the second being focused on the commissions. Curt to run it by the other commissions to see what they think.

Financial Matters – Bruno

MOTION to pay the two invoices (Intervale at \$560.92 and Mad River Path Association at \$320) made by Leo. Ted SECONDED.

Leo - Have Mad River Path submit a correct invoice showing the correct hourly rate.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Other business – Curt

- Next meetings: 1/16/23 and 2/20/23 at 6:30 pm

Executive Session

MOTION to go to executive session by Bruno. SECONDED by Phil.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION to come out of executive session by ??? . Seconded by ???.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Commission comes out of executive session with no action taken but further discussions with the Select Board on a confidential real estate matter to occur.

Adjourn – 8:35 pm

MOTION to adjourn by Chris , SECONDED by Phil. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY