

Draft – Conservation Commission Minutes
September 16, 2016

Present: Joe Houston, Leah Szafranski, Steve Wright, June Cook, Diane Morgan, Elinor Osborn, Susie Houston

Absent: Emily Thompson, Carol Maroni, Farley Brown

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

Minutes: Minutes of August 22, 2016 meeting approved.

Act 64 Speaker Presentation: Joe reported Jim Ryan would be available to give a presentation on Act 64, water quality act dealing with storm water runoff, conservation issues, and agricultural issues. The required agricultural practices have not been adopted yet and presentations would be broken into two different sessions. Agricultural issues to be addressed separately.

Diane will check on availability of Craftsbury Public Library; Joe will do press release. Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 24, at 7:00 p.m.

AVCC Regional Meeting: Diane reported the meeting focused on Lamoille County. Presentations were given by Conservation Commissions and Craftsbury CC seems to be doing a lot in comparison. Meeting dealt with what you have done, what you are working on, and what you hope to do.

AVCC Summit: Susie distributed the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Newsletter. She will send e-mails to everyone re attending the Summit. Question arose if dues for AVCC have been paid. Susie will verify.

Conservation Fund: No updates were given. Steve, Leah, and Emily will meet before the next meeting and report in November. Warning deadline is in January. No funds would be sought from the town at this point; however, if a fund is established, the CC would be in position to accept donations. Consensus was not to seek town funds at this time.

Fund would support CC efforts, potential to contribute to projects for purchasing development rights, purchasing land or supporting efforts, i.e., buying trees or contribute to a matching grant.

Conversation dealt with having two votes: Establish fund and establish funding. Area towns with CC Fund have gifts from people who are active in conservation. The focus is to create opportunities but not get bogged down as to creating the guidelines, rule making, and/or making decisions as to priorities.

The CC would have to go to the Select Board before expending any funds from a CC Fund if one were established. Up to the Commission to make recommendations to the Select Board as to what a project is and why CC supports it.

Invasive Species: Susie reported receiving call about inventorying of loosestrife. No action was taken. Leah reported there is a USDA-approved beetle that eats loosestrife. Question raised what happens after the loosestrife is gone.

Elinor reported on Cole Drive widening and not paying attention to knotweed. Joe said the BetterBack Roads grants are concerned with runoff; and if roads are widened, material is created that should be disposed of properly. There have been no answers forthcoming on how to dispose of such material when filled with invasives.

Enosburg has flagged areas and help direct the road crew. If road crew is working on a limited budget, would special treatment of areas require another person on the job?

Perennial Question: How do we make the system work better? Answer: Better communication and CC being a resource. It was agreed the CC is not in position to provide labor to correct problem.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.
Submitted by June Pichel Cook, Secretary