

**TOWN OF BRISTOL, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
AT 6:00 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2015
AT HOLLEY HALL, BRISTOL VT**

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ken Johnson (KJ), Chair; Pete Diminico (PD) Vice-Chair; Katie Reilley (KR), Clerk; David Henderson (DH); David Rosen (DR); Kristen Underwood (KU); Randy Durand (RD); Devlin Rutherford (DvR).

ALSO ATTENDING:

- I. Call to order.
Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Public comment period.
Resident Peter Grant was present, and had information regarding the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC). Peter is the Town of Bristol representative to ACRPC, and he informed the Commission about several items under discussion at their recent meetings.
In particular, Peter wanted the Commission to know that there is a lecture series in place referred to as the “Brown Bag Lecture Series”. The next program, to be held on Tuesday 15 December, is on the Clean Water Initiative for Municipalities. More information is available from the ACRPC.
He also discussed the upcoming update to the regional plan, the most recent edition being that of December 2011. The plan is scheduled to be updated within a year. Peter recommended that the Bristol Conservation Commission participate in the review process, and provide input regarding regional natural resources as well as future energy options. The Commission will keep in touch as to the timing of the reviews, and Peter will get copies of the current regional plan to the Commission.
- III. Addition of items to the agenda.
None added at this time.
- IV. Approval of minutes of 12 November 2015.
DR moved that the minutes of 12 November 2015 be approved; KJ seconded; approved by all.
- V. Correspondence
E-mails related to items listed below, including an email from Kristen Underwood forwarding information from Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy regarding a proposal to the Lake Champlain Basin Program for a Flood Resilience and Climate Change Grant. Refers to Items VI. A., VI. B., and VI. C. below (see attached).
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Green Stormwater Infrastructure: Update regarding stormwater management and the project at the corner of Main St. and Mountain St.

- The project is almost complete, but the drainage still needs to be connected, which requires cutting pavement. Per Ken, Richard Butz did take photographs of the activity construction.
- B. New Haven River project by Sonia DeYoung, focusing on the New Haven River Watershed, funded by Vermont River Conservancy: updates.
Sonia DeYoung will be making a presentation this evening at the New Haven Town Hall regarding her journey following the New Haven River, and her interactions with property owners and residents she met during her trip down the river. Pete requested that the Commission finish up their meeting to allow Commissioners to attend.
- C. Stormwater Infrastructure: stenciling project with Stever Bartlett of the New Haven River Anglers; update.
As part of the grant application (see V. above), Stever had sent a letter of support regarding the collaboration among the towns of Bristol, New Haven and Lincoln to build greater flood resilience (see attached).
As part of the VRC's application, Bristol would develop at least one significant project that addresses the purposes of the grant, including hosting four separate meetings through the year to discuss flood resilience and to develop better working relationships with surrounding towns.
- D. Vermont Geological Survey bedrock mapping of Bristol and South Mountain Quadrangles; update.
No further updates. Remove from agenda.
- E. Bristol Village tree inventory: Follow-up coordination Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program; update.
Randy related his discussions with Claire Tebbs of ACRPC, who is assisting the town by developing a draft management plan for Bristol's street tree resources, as required as part of the UVM Forestry Program agreement with the Town. Randy will keep the Commission informed as to the progress of the plan. One of the most significant aspects of the management plan is the ability to demonstrate responsible stewardship on the part of the town regarding the health and safety of the trees, especially as it relates to liability issues.
- F. Saunders River Access: update on maintenance of plantings on October 10, 2015.
Kristen explained a recent initiative on the part of the Vermont Agency of Transportation to develop more accurate tracking of stream erosion as a means of protecting highway infrastructure. VTTrans is using drones with supplemental ground control and geographic information systems to develop a three-dimensional point cloud to allow spatial analysis. The current schedule is to fly the drone, which is composed of Styrofoam, control features and a camera, over the area of the New Haven River surrounding the Saunders property. The area to be analyzed runs west to east from VT Route 116 to Carlstrom Road, and north to south from the A. Johnson property to the south end on the Saunders lot.
The tentative flyover is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday 22 December, to last about two hours, flying at about 400' in elevation. Weather conditions will need to be clear and calm for the work to move forward. Kristen will keep the Commission informed of the schedule
- G. Sycamore Park: completion of riparian treatment to reduce erosion of the river banks.
Pete will keep an eye on the slope just below the bridge, and keep VTTrans informed of any problems.
- H. Eagle Park: maintenance work update.

There are still some problems with people cutting across the planted area.

- I. Monkton Agricultural and Natural Areas Committee: questionnaire regarding regional natural resource planning.

No further discussion.

VII. New Business

- A. Potential changes to Zoning Regulations regarding river corridor protection.

Susan Kavanaugh, Planning Commission Chair, is trying to coordinate a meeting with the Agency of Natural Resources to discuss the model regulations which towns can use to develop a river corridor protection program. Middlebury has been moving forward in this program, and will bear watching.

Pete advised that the topic can be very difficult, and can present potential conflicts about property rights.

VIII. Other

Pete talked briefly about setting up a more dynamic program for projects this winter, including developing stormwater infrastructure projects.

There was also discussion about coordinating more with other Conservation Commissions including New Haven and other New Haven River municipalities.

Randy discussed several interesting new approaches to landscape design that incorporated unusual solutions to providing more greenspace. One showed a design that incorporated gardens and public seating within a road space. The second investigated a vertical approach to planting: high-rise apartments that incorporate significant acreage of tree and shrub plantings.

IX. Upcoming events

A.

X. Next Meeting Schedule and Agenda

- A. Next meeting 14 January 2016.

XI. Adjournment

DH moved that the meeting be adjourned; DevR seconded; approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.