

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC) Minutes

DRAFT Minutes

Dec 10, 2020

6:00 pm Zoom*

Attending: Carolyn Dash (CD), Chair; Kristen Underwood (KU), Vice-Chair; Jono Chapin (JC)

Absent: Melanie Lloyd (ML), Clerk; Dave Rosen (DR)

Members of the Public: Porter Knight (PK), Bristol Trail Netw.; Alex Mihavics (AM), Rec Dept.

I Call to order

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

Items VI.B and VI.C taken out of order.

II Public Comment Period (none)

III Addition of Items to the Agenda -

Annual Report due to Sharon Jan 6;

Jono to report on discussions with Energy Committee

IV Review and approval of minutes from Nov 12

Tabled until next meeting, since ML is not present.

V Correspondence (none)

VI Old Business

A. **Conservation Commission Membership:** ML requests a short-term hiatus due to pandemic-related teaching demands. More members are needed to fill 4 vacant positions.

B. **Bristol Trail Network (BTN):**

Porter Knight provided a summary of ongoing trail maintenance, trail development and fund-raising activities of the BTN. Trails have seen regular use during these pandemic times as folks seek recreation opportunities close to home. No group volunteer trail work efforts took place this season due to COVID restrictions, but light trail work was accomplished instead by individuals and small household units. The River Bend trail saw the most maintenance activity. A small VYCC crew of adults worked for 2 weeks and 2 days building stone steps, and an Americorps intern on loan one day a week from Addison County Regional Planning Commission completed bench reinforcements. A UVM intern also assisted this fall, along with Meredith MacFarland, Bristol Rec Dir. Landowner outreach is ongoing for a trail spur to Plank Road. PK is writing a grants now for an engineering study to improve accessibility at Memorial Park, and to construct a new 1-mile trail loop on the other side of the falls.

C. **Parks Updates:** Eagle, Memorial, Sycamore, Saunders River Access

Alex Mihavics provided an update on park maintenance activities. "Pack it in; Pack it out" signs were purchased using Bristol Rec Dept funds and arrived today; AM will be installing these at Eagle, Sycamore and Memorial Parks in upcoming days, with Bristol DPW help to sink the sign posts. Litter continues to be present in these parks during weekly inspections. At Eagle Park, the boulder with the Chuck Baser plaque became dislodged from its perch in recent weeks (possibly due to vehicle impact). With help

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC) Minutes

DRAFT Minutes

Dec 10, 2020

6:00 pm Zoom*

from the Bristol DPW, the boulder was replaced and the plaque was not damaged. Holes in the parking area at Sycamore Park are being filled with gravel, as budgets and weather permit.

D. Emerald Ash Borer Strategic Planning Committee: JC and AM provided an update. With help from AM and Taylor, Bristol volunteers are inventorying ash trees and their condition on town properties and rights of way, under direction from VT Urban & Community Forestry. The committee meets next on Dec 17 to report on inventory outcomes. A management plan will then be prepared in the spring.

E. Winter Scavenger Hunt:

CD will draft the scavenger hunt for review at the next meeting, with the goal to advertise the hunt beginning Jan 18. Completed scavenger hunt entries will be accepted through March 9, with a goal to select winners during the March 11 meeting. JC will pursue fundraising request from National Bank of Middlebury.

F. Illegal Upper Notch Dump Site:

Addison County Sheriff's office confirmed with CD after last month's meeting that they will carry out regular patrols.

G. Lewis Creek Association invasive concerns at Bristol Pond-

Kate Kelly from Lewis Creek Association has suggested that the Bristol CC could participate in upcoming volunteer frog-bit removal activities to be coordinated by LCA at Bristol Pond. BCC resolved that we will help facilitate advertising for volunteers, but will not have the capacity to participate, given our limited membership.

H. Website- missing minutes through June 2020

KU will inventory her email files and send past draft minutes to CD.

VII New Business

A. Possible project partnership with RiseVT on Memorial or other projects, discussion lead by Michele Gilbert – Tabled, because Michele Gilbert was not in attendance.

B. Annual Report due to Sharon on Jan 6. KU and CD will draft annual report and circulate via email.

C. JC reported that he attended an Energy Committee meeting to discuss the topic of co-hosted activities or presentations with a Climate Change awareness theme. JC will propose possible events at an upcoming BCC meeting.

VIII Events

IX Next Meeting: Jan 14, 2020

X Adjournment - KU made motion to adjourn; JC 2nd, 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kristen Underwood