

Bristol Conservation Commission (BCC)

minutes

November 9, 2023

6:00 pm

Location: Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

Members Present: Carolyn Dash, Chair (CD), Jono Chapin, Vice Chair (JC), Zelig Smith, Clerk (ZS), Alex Smith (AS), Helen Young (HY), Kristen Underwood (KU), Nancy Morrison (NM), John Merriman (JM)

Members of the Public: Freeda Powers

I Call to order:

The November 2023 meeting of the BCC was called to order at 6:03 PM

II Public Comment Period

No public comments

III Addition of Items to the Agenda

No items added to the agenda

IV Review and approval of minutes from Oct 12 meeting

Helen Young made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 12th BCC meeting. JM seconded. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

V Correspondence

No new Correspondences

VI Old Business

A. Grant Opportunities: discussion with Freeda Powers

- a. Freeda Powers is the new grant writer for the town of Bristol.
- b. There is a procedure for groups applying to grants for the town of Bristol. This grant has sometimes been followed but not always, which makes it hard for record keeping. There is a form for individuals or groups to fill out if they are interested in pursuing a grant for the town, then it will go in front of the Selectboard. Freeda is working to ensure that the procedure is being followed.
- c. The BCC can approach Freeda if there are projects that need funding and she will look into grant opportunities for us. The BCC may also approach Freeda if there is a grant we are interested in and she will assist in the application process.
- d. KU made a motion to approve CD signing a letter of support on behalf of the BCC for the VOREC grant application so that it can be submitted before the due date. HY seconded. The motion passed and CD is approved to sign a letter of support on the behalf of the BCC for the VOREC grant application.

B. Conservation Commission Membership:

- a. A member of the public approached CD about being interested in joining the commission. The individual has yet to attend but we look forward to meeting them at a future meeting.

C. Addison County Conservation Commission Summit: debrief

- a. The Addison County Conservation Commission Summit took place on Nov. 4th. Two BCC members attended the summit. 13 other towns were present. Key takeaways included the discussion of communication and coordination between different town commissions.

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D. Municipal Vulnerability Index: updates

- a. The Municipal Vulnerability Index is progressing on the time frame they hoped to have and may be ready this coming spring. They have the list of elements they want in it and are now collecting the data. In future this could be used by the BCC as a tool to look at environmental vulnerability in our area.

E. Updating wildlife maps

- a. Updates on student work this semester thus far with Dr. Alexis Mychajliw (Middlebury College)
 - i. Tabled until next month.

F. Parks Updates:

- a. **Eagle**
 - i. The BCC will be digging up perennials this weekend and potting them for the week while the park is being worked on. The accessible ramp will extend further up the hill to allow flooding under and over without damage. Footers are being added to the platform structure and it will have a removable railing. In the winter or before large storms the railing will be removed from the platform and put as a gate keeping people off the dock. Then debris will be able to flow freely over the platform.
- b. **Memorial**
 - i. BCC discussed focusing on steps down to a swimming hole instead of a full bridge restoration. The BCC will walk the property and discuss it further in the spring.
- c. **Sycamore**
 - i. Members of the BCC worked on the kiosk at the park, restoring cork board etc. The volunteers also removed the fencing around the perennial garden.
- d. **Saunders River Access**
 - i. This property has a VT river conservancy easement on it and requires an inspection. They will be checking next Sunday to make sure everything is in accordance with the management plan.
 - ii. This property as well as 1+ mile of river adjoining and upstream of Saunders River Access is being considered for an Alternatives Analysis grant. The grant application was denied because of larger flooding issues in the state. However, this will be applied for again in the future.

VII New Business

None

VIII Events

Plant digging on the 10th at Eagle park.

IX Next Meeting: December 14 at 6:00pm, in Holley Hall conference room with Zoom option

X Adjournment

ZS made a motion to adjourn the meeting. AS seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM.