

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting April 14, 2015
Approved Copy

In attendance for the FCC: Dennis Armell, Treasurer,
Jen Cirillo, Acting Chair, Amy Dohner,
John Medenwald, Karen Pettersen, Secretary
Guests: Robert Peisch and Finn Yarbrough

Jen volunteered to chair the meeting and opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The February meeting notes were moved to accept.

A. Town Plan

1. No information.

B. Addison County Regional Plan, Map of Regionally Significant Resources

1. Arabella Holzapfel, the town's rep. to the ACRPC, sent an email with a copy of their meeting notes to the Conservation Commission members regarding our request to include additional items on the Regionally Significant Resources section and map. The ACRPC Natural Resources Committee voted to include a "stream corridors" layer, clay plain forests and deer wintering areas on the Map of Regionally Significant Resources.
2. Craig copied members the email he sent to Scott Darling, wildlife biologist with the VT Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the reply from Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist with VDFW, regarding bear habitat in Ferrisburgh. Jens indicated that the State doesn't have information on bear habitats in Addison County, however, he recommended using habitat blocks and wildlife crossings as a way of indicating bear movement within our Town.

C. Website

1. Karen to request Betsy Etchells to add a link for the 'Invasive Plants on Private Forestlands' workshop sponsored by The Nature Conservancy on May 9th, and to add another item on the left sidebar labeled 'Upcoming Workshops'.

D. Workshops

1. Shoreline Protection – Jen will contact Craig regarding the potential date (July 6th) for this workshop.
2. Selected Reptiles and Amphibians in the Ferrisburgh Area Workshop presented by Jim Andrews, Herpetologist from Middlebury, on May 13th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the Town Community Space.
 - a. Amy will request the Selectboard to waive the use fee for the space at the Selectboard's next meeting on April 21st.
 - b. We will meet at 6:00 pm before the workshop to set up the room including: a table for information, wildlife photographs, wildlife map, Town Forest Management Plan, Shoreland Protection Workshop announcement, sign up sheet for list serve, food and drink.
 - c. Karen will make cookies, Dennis will bring cider, and Jen will bring juice glasses.
 - d. Jen will create a flyer and place an announcement on Front Porch Forum, the Addison Independent calendar, post it at the Walden School, Willowwell, Ferrisburgh Elementary School, Vergennes Union High School, Bixby Library, various places along Route 7 in Ferrisburgh, and on our website.

e. Jim Andrews fee for the presentation exceeds our remaining budget by \$20.00. Dennis will contact the Town.

E. Vision Statement

1. Jen will distribute to the members examples of vision statements she's gathered from other Towns.
2. There was a suggestion of an informal summer get together to discuss what we want for our vision statement.

F. Energy Committee

1. Karen asked Gloria, Town Clerk, if the Town received a copy of an application to the Public Service Board by Housing Vermont for a solar array on Route 7. They haven't received a copy.
2. Another solar array is being considered on the Harris Property on Greenbush Road near Route 7. It is being developed by SunCommon and they will be making a presentation to the Selectboard on April 21st. Amy will be attending that meeting.

G. Town Forest

1. Craig to follow up on any ATV activity this winter in the southeast corner of the Forest.

H. New business

1. John said that the Northern Long Eared Bat has been both Federal and State listed as a threatened and endangered species. This bat is most affected by white nose syndrome. The rules protecting this species haven't been established, yet.
2. There was an article in the Addison Independent regarding an assessment of culverts and bridges in Addison County by The Nature Conservancy. Karen will contact Rose Paul, TNC, for more information.
3. Robert Peisch was the Town's Health Officer and had recently resigned as an Addison County Solid Waste Management District board member. Initially, he expressed an interest in being a member of our commission, but our focus was different than his at this time. He was hoping to recruit someone to take his place on the ACSWMD, which meets once a month. Each town in Addison County has a representative, except Salisbury, and the District has a large budget and has tackled many interesting environmental problems. Robert told us of a workshop at the Rokeby Museum to release the apple orchard on the property, which should, also, be posted to our website.
4. Finn Yarbrough is a new Ferrisburgh resident, and will be studying for his Masters in Environmental Studies this fall. He will be going to the Selectboard meeting on April 21st to place a formal request to be a member of the Conservation Commission.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm. The next scheduled meeting is May 12, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary