

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting October 13, 2015
Approved Copy

In attendance for the FCC: Craig Heindel, Chair, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner,
John Medenwald, and Karen Pettersen, Secretary
Guest: Deb Healey

Craig opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

The June meeting notes were moved to be accepted as presented.

A. Wildlife Presentation, Oct. 21st, 6:30 pm

1. Jen will bring a screen from work.
2. Jen, Karen, John and Amy will bring refreshments.
3. We will meet at upstairs at 6:00 pm to set up.
4. Jens will bring his own presentation equipment.
5. Additional posters will be put up around town.

B. Addison County River Watch Collaborative

1. Deb Healey filled us in on what has been happening recently at the ACRWC
2. There is a new video called "What's your Water Mark" sponsored by the H Team and Heritage Ford that is a good educational tool.
3. They submitted a grant to the Lake Champlain Basin program for education and outreach through water quality chats with Ethan Swift and Matt Witten as presenters.
4. The Lake Champlain Committee will focus on rivers for the next 2 years starting in 2016. Additional water quality testing and sites on the rivers will be included.
5. Deb requested that the FCC and the ACRWC have a joint meeting in February to show the video, ask for volunteers for the river testing and explain the responsibilities expected of the volunteer testers. The meeting could be after the February 15-19 break.
6. We discussed possible new sites. The State tests the mouth of all the rivers. Maybe one possibility would be at Bergmans on Middle Brook, and another would be below the falls on Little Otters Creek at Little Chicago Road, and the last further downstream.

C. Anaric, partnering with National Grid

1. The Selectboard wants all the commissions and committees to provide input on this proposed project for a public meeting on November 12th at 7:00 pm.

D. TDI

1. This is a separate project involving a proposed electric line from Alburgh to Benson located under Lake Champlain which would tie into the grid in Cavendish. A court said Ferrisburgh can't tax the line as it passes thru the Town under the lake.

E. Solar Proposals

1. Three projects have started: Pomerleau, west of Rt. 7 north of the railroad tracks and on Greenbush Road.

E. Vision Statement

1. Come prepared to discuss this topic at our next meeting.

F. Brace Farm-VLT Conservation Easement

1. Craig went to the Selectboard meeting and nothing was mentioned.

G. Monkton Intertown Conservation Meeting

1. A meeting will be held on Sat. Jan. 23rd from 2 to 5 pm at Holly Hall in Bristol.
2. Monkton would like us to answer the questionnaire that was sent to the participating towns by Oct. 30th. John will provide some answers and distribute it to our members for comment.

H. AVCC

1. The Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions annual meeting will be held on Sat., Nov. 7th.
2. Karen volunteered to go.
3. They require a pre-registration, and Karen will ask the Town for the fee since we have already spent this years' budget. The agenda is on-line.

I. VT Gas

1. The route through Monkton is changing, but there aren't any changes to the route through Ferrisburgh.

J. Tree Steward Conference

1. No one attended.

K. Town Forest

1. Carl Cole, realtor, is under contract with Laughlin, abutting property owner to the west of the Town Forest. He believes the land could be subdivided into 5 or 6 lots.
2. Pam had emailed a few members regarding the r-o-w through the Laughlin property after being contacted by someone possibly related to the owner.
3. Carl had volunteered a possible 60 foot wide r-o-w in his recent conversation with Craig.
4. We discussed looking into ways to purchase properties abutting the Town Forest including one or more of the potential Laughlin lots and the eastern most Shapiro lot. Possible funding sources could be the Wildlife Federation, USFS Community Forest Program, VT Family Forests, Rokeby, NE Wildflower Society, NE Grass Roots, and the Nature Conservancy. Also, contact Chris Olson, Addison County Forester for additional ideas.
5. We discussed another site visit, in January, to review another section of the town forest boundary.

L. Town Plan

1. The Planning Commission was meeting this same night down stairs.

M. Website

1. Karen to contact Betsy Etchells to add:
 - a. another item on the left sidebar labeled 'Upcoming Workshops'
 - b. remove 'interested in joining the FCC'
 - c. add Finn Yarbrough's name as a member of the committee
 - d. remove one of the 'meeting minutes' notations

N. New business

1. Change the meeting time to 7:00.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. The next scheduled meeting is November 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary