

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission  
Meeting December 9, 2014  
Approved Copy

In attendance for the FCC: Craig Heindel, Chairman, Dennis Armell,  
Amy Dohner, Karen Pettersen, Secretary  
Jen Cirillo, guest

Craig opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The November meeting notes were moved to accept.

A. Town Plan

1. Craig reported there wasn't any additional news regarding the scheduling of a public hearing for the draft of our Town Plan.
2. Town Plan approval process was discussed and we believe the process includes submitting a searchable .pdf of the proposed Town Plan to the Department of Housing and Community Development by the Planning Commission, after which the Planning Commission schedules a public hearing. Then the Planning Commission submits the Town Plan to the Selectboard, who in turn holds a public hearing.

B. Town Wildlife Mapping

1. Karen will post a request on the Front Porch Forum asking people to provide us the locations of any wildlife sightings within the Town using 911 addresses or other prominent landmarks, such as intersections of roads, and, also, asking people if there is an interest in another animal tracking presentation.
2. Jens Hawkins-Hilke, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife Biologist, contacted Karen and suggested just meeting with the Conservation Commission first. He would bring some maps and we would have a discussion concerning our wildlife goals. Based on that initial meeting he would make another presentation, which would be open to the public. If we wanted to involve school aged children he suggested a separate presentation. The initial meeting will on January 13, our next meeting.
3. Craig expressed some thoughts regarding possible wildlife goals, including maintaining the Town Forest as wildlife habitat, and FCC interest in encouraging the maintenance of wildlife corridors when properties are proposed for development.
4. There had been a land and wildlife analysis done in the 90's by UVM students of Leslie King, and some research needs to done to determine if there is a possibility of updating that assessment.

E. FCC web page pictures

1. Karen submitted four photographs to Betsey Etchells, who has posted them on our website. Karen will contact Laura Farrell, chair Monkton ANAC regarding using her photograph of a bobcat.

F. Monkton Agriculture and Natural Areas Committee (ANAC)

1. The Monkton ANAC hosted a meeting of Town Conservation Commissions from Ferrisburgh, Bristol and another adjacent town to open up a discussion on common issues that transcend town boundary lines.
2. Craig volunteered to hold a training session for the FCC on how to access and use the Vermont ANR online Natural Resources Atlas, then invite the surrounding town CCs to a training session.

#### G. Bats

1. Craig contacted Scott Darling, Wildlife Biologist with VDF&W, who said that their department will be making recommendations, possibly in the Spring, to property owners and towns regarding management techniques for maintaining bat habitat for bats that are on the Threatened and Endangered Species List (T&ESL). Scott, also, said that the little brown bat is not on the T&ESL. The State has 5 bats listed on the T&ESL.

#### H. Municipal Day

1. Craig attended 2 sessions; Total Maximum Daily Load, and Shoreline Protection Law. The TMDL session was very information regarding phosphorus loading. The load limits for the tributaries to Lake Champlain maybe issued in 2015. Craig suggested, at that time, we could offer assistance to John Bull to determine which of the town road ditches would be rated high for contributing phosphorus laden runoff to Lake Champlain. Craig said that Betsy Etchells has added links to the Shoreline Protection Law on our web page. When the State issues a permit complying with the Shoreland Protection Law it has to be recorded with the Town Clerk. Craig suggested we could hold an informational meeting for the Town, maybe in June.

#### I. Wisteria Lane

1. Craig attended the site visit and didn't see any conservation issues. The previous proposal, in 2007, was not granted a permit. The next Planning Commission hearing will be on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, which Craig may attend.

#### J. Other meetings and business.

1. We will conduct our semiannual Town Forest site visit to review the northern boundary line and invasive species. The tentative date is Sun. Dec. 14 at 9:30.
2. The Ferrisburgh Energy Committee invited us to their next meeting, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 to review the laws regarding solar farms. According to the Energy Committee, Towns have no say in siting installations, and the next legislative session maybe addressing this issue.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting is January 13, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Pettersen, Secretary