

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting May 12, 2015
Approved Copy

In attendance for the FCC: Craig Heindel, Chair, Dennis Armell, Treasurer,
Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Karen Pettersen,
Secretary, and Finn Yarbrough

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

The April meeting notes were moved to accept.

A. Selected Reptiles and Amphibians workshop, May 13th

1. Craig will bring extension cords.
2. Need a table for Jim to set up his display of shells, etc.
3. The Town waived the rental fee for the use of the upstairs Community Space.
4. Dennis will attend the Selectboard meeting on May 19th to request the money for Jim's fee.
5. Amy had called the Town regarding Jim's fee.
6. Jim is okay with receiving his fee after the May 19th Selectboard meeting.

B. Shoreland Protection Workshop, July 6th

1. Misha Cetner will be presenting an abbreviated explanation of the Shoreland Protection Act to a joint meeting of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Selectboard on May 20th from 7:00 -7:30. Craig will be attending.
2. Misha hasn't been able to confirm the use of Kingsland Bay State Park for our workshop.
3. The time of the workshop will be 6:30-8:30 pm
4. The committee will make a list of the people we want to contact, which will be the basis of a database.
5. Karen will contact Long Point Association to include this workshop announcement in their newsletter, and contact the Town to ask if there are other associations that we should contact.

C. Energy Committee

1. Finn, also a member of the Energy Committee, reported that there are 4 proposals for solar array projects: Harris property on Greenbush Road, 150Kv; Pomerleau solar array extension south of the existing array along Route 7, 500Kv; Housing Vermont located at the northwest corner of Route 7 and the railroad crossing, 500Kv; and a project behind the Dollar Store, 500 Kv. The last two projects haven't been submitted to the Public Service Board, yet.
2. The reason for so many projects at once is a change in the rules slated for 2016.
3. There is a concern that so many projects will create a backlash from the public.
4. Suggestions to the Energy Committee include holding an informational meeting, committee to act as a clearing house or arbiter, post the permitting process that project developers are required to follow so the general public understands the process if they want to submit testimony.
5. Bob McNary, Energy Committee Chair, will make maps of the 3 projects and submit them to the Selectboard on May 19th.
6. The Energy Committee would like to consult with Karen regarding the aesthetics of the projects.
7. Finn will contact Kevin Boehm, ACRPC, for a map showing the location all these projects, and to contact GMP.

D. Vision Statement

1. Jen will distribute examples of vision statements she's gathered from other Towns to the members.

E. Town Forest

1. Craig left a message with Jeff Jerger regarding their request to cross the Town Forest using an ATV this past winter.

F. Town Plan

1. The Selectboard has been reviewing the draft Town Plan, but still doesn't have the corrected Land Use Map to review from the ACRPC.

G. Website

1. Karen to contact Betsy Etchells to add:
 - a. another item on the left sidebar labeled 'Upcoming Workshops'
 - b. add a link to vtinvasives.org
 - c. remove the Town Forest video
 - d. remove one of the 'meeting minutes' notations
 - e. add the workshops
 - f. remove 'interested in joining the FCC'

H. New business

1. Karen attended the Invasives Workshop sponsored by the VT Nature Conservancy, VT Landtrust and Americorp at Ravins Ridge on May 9th. The VNC has been testing various techniques to remove a variety of invasive plants at this site.
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. Marty Illick, Lewis Creek Association, contacted the FCC regarding our participation at an event on June 18th at the Waldorf High School from 7:00-9:30 pm where Sue Morse will be presenting a slide show and talk on the Wildlife Habitat in the Champlain Valley.
4. Finn Yarbrough attended the last Selectboard meeting and was appointed as a member of the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission.
5. Finn discussed a workshop he attended in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, on slow violence to the environment. An example of slow violence locally would be Lake Champlain and mercury poisoning, excess phosphorus and nitrogen, and eutrophication.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary