

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2018

Present: Sarah Albert, Becky Atchinson, Charlie Cogbill, Julie Hackbarth, Kim Sudol Mary Terice and Jan Waterman

Sarah convened the meeting at 7:20. Agenda reviewed.

Minutes: June minutes amended and approved

Budget Report: Sarah distributed copies of the CC FY2018 budget report for our review. Voted and approved.

EAB: Charlie and Jan reported on EAB webinar of June 26 and the July 8 educational field trip hosted by the Marshfield CC, led by Meredith Whitney, UVM Extension Forest Pest Educator. Members of our commission are considering participating with the town EAB task force.

Town Forest: At our work day on Sunday, July 15, only Sarah and Jan showed up – a disappointing turnout. We cleared deadfall along one leg of the trail. Since maintenance seems to be more than our volunteers can keep up with, we discussed hiring someone to do brush hogging instead. Sarah will get a couple of estimates for this job, and take the matter to the Selectboard for approval. Kim will continue discussion with her contact at Maple Hill School about involving students there in replacing the puncheon (boardwalk) in wetland near the lower parking lot. Materials could be donated by local businesses.

Act 171: Continued discussion of CVRPC/Monica Przyperhart's feedback concerning Act 171. We decided to accept her offer of help turning the resource map created by Jens Hilke, and used by the Planning Commission, into a tiered map that would be more useful. Sarah and Kim will work with Monica on this. Jan will contact Monica, and Sarah will let Will Colgan know that this improved map is forthcoming.

Marshfield CC pamphlet: Jan reported on her further conversation with Sara Norton, who created the pamphlet and is in charge of reprinting. We now have 50 copies, and brainstormed all the places we could help distribute them. We voted and approved motion to use funds from our budget to pay for printing costs of 100 more (to total 150). Kim asked if someone could send her the digital form of the pamphlet, so she can post it on the CC page of our town website. Jan will follow up on that, with our reprinting request, and determine who to make out a check to (Sara or the Marshfield CC). Becky will investigate costs of plastic pamphlet holders.

Dog Waste in Mill Park: Commission members felt it's unacceptable that the incidence of dog waste in the park has become so obnoxious that the Farmers Market has moved to the church yard in response to this problem. We discussed creating a sign that delivers a stronger message than the one that's currently posted in the park; posting information about why this is a problem on FPF, Plainfield People and our

town webpage; including this information with dog licensing paperwork; requesting that the Selectboard create an ordinance that includes a fine for dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs; and asking the town constable to keep an eye on dogs in the park. Sarah will check with Linda to see if an ordinance addressing this problem already exists.

Current use/education/outreach: Sarah has tracked down records for trees purchased and planted by the town through the Street Tree Program. There are 55 total, 20 of which are on private land. Discussed and decided to contact those landowners with updated information about caring for the trees, what resources are available to them, etc. Initial contact will be via mail first, then with phone calls to follow up. Further discussion about attaching small numbered medallions to trees we've planted, keyed to inventory. Sarah will investigate sources and costs.

Upcoming Events: The AVCC Annual Conservation Summit, September 29, 8:30-3:30 at Green Mountain College, in Poultney. Registration is open until July 30; theme is "Caring for Vermont's Waters – What We Can Do!!"

Meeting adjourned 9:05.

Next regular meeting Wednesday August 15, 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by Jan Waterman
Secretary and co-chair

Action Items:

- **Sarah** will get a couple of estimates for the TF brush hog job, and take the matter to the Selectboard for approval.
- **Kim** will continue discussion with her contact at Maple Hill School about involving students there in replacing the puncheon in the wetlands
- **Sarah and Kim** will work with Monica on creating tiered map
- **Jan** will contact Monica about working w/Kim and Sarah on the map
- **Sarah** will let Will know that this map is forthcoming
- **Jan** will follow up on pamphlet reprinting
- **Becky** will investigate costs of plastic pamphlet holders
- **Sarah** will check with Linda to see if an ordinance addressing the poo problem already exists, if so does it include option for fining scofflaws?
- **Sarah** will investigate sources and costs of medallions for street trees