

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*Anne Bijur, Trafton Crandall, Mariana Du Brul, Suzy Hodgson,
Robert Hyams, Robert Mack, Gary Pittman, Holly Sullivan, Howard Verman*

March 23, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m. Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Anne Bijur, Trafton Crandall, Mariana DuBrul, Suzy Hodgson, Robert Hyams, Gary Pitman

Recording Secretary: Robert Hyams

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: February (3/2/10) minutes were reviewed and accepted with minor corrections
Trafton, Gary

ONGOING BUSINESS

Trails update: Deferred until next meeting due to Holly's absence

PC Activity Review (Trafton, Bob, Gary)

Murphy Application: awaiting PC letter before we submit response. Gary and Bob were designated to represent Conservation Commission during Planning Commission hearings for the Murphy application. Jordan: PC has generally approved application, pending formal, FIH 100 year analysis by a professional engineer.
Keenan (Gary) appealing ruling on North Pasture Lane road improvements specified by PC

Project Evaluation Criteria

Bob presented edited version, which was discussed and accepted by all members present. Bob will circulate Vision 2015 document referenced in criteria.

habitat map update and download session (Trafton)

Trafton presented update. We now have a link to the CCRP site for PCs to download map layers and database. CCC members with PCs will access the data through the links, with the guidance of the draft users guide.

NEW BUSINESS

CSWD grant

Bob to take lead on 'modest' composting grant. Basic tenant, to evaluate efficacy of waste diversion.

discuss CCC guidelines for committee/commission participation

Deferred

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05445**

discuss commissioner reappointments

The terms for Anne, Suzy, Gary expired this year. Gary and Suzy will ask to be reappointed. Anne is retiring from CCC, but will continue her work on the Energy Committee. Thanks to all.

Water Sampling Presentation - Karen Bates, DEC Water Quality Division

Karen, with the support of Bunky Bernstein and Carol Hanley, shared the work of the water sampling efforts within various watersheds throughout Charlotte. Thorp Brook sampling is in its 3rd year, five years of sampling on LaPlatte have been completed. This year, Holmes Brook has been added to the program, pending approval from the state.

Perceived deterioration of water quality by local residents of Town Farm Bay (mouth of Thorp) have provided much of the impetus for the Thorp Brook efforts. The proliferation of vegetation in the bay, much of it exotic, is well documented, and likely attributable to nutrient loading. Sampling has revealed excessive phosphorus levels (P levels) in reaches of Thorp Brook. Nutrient levels in Town Farm Bay are likely effected by flows from Little Otter as well, and possibly from adjacent lakeshore development.

The LaPlatte study has also taken into account stream geomorphology, which looks at flow dynamics and changes in the stream bed. The purpose of the sampling initiative is to not only document P levels, but to offer insight on how land management practices impact water quality in streams and subsequently, Lake Champlain.

The Conservation Commission will consider how we can support these efforts. Possibilities include:

1. Individual members can participate in sampling
2. Outreach: can help disseminate findings through articles, town party...
3. Can sponsor watershed stewardship initiatives; stream buffering and tree planting...

SB budget request (see request below)

To: Commissions, boards and staff with budget responsibility
From: Dean
Date: March 12, 2010
Re: **FY10-11 budget revision**

At Town Meeting on March 2, Article 3 was amended to level fund the Town's FY10-11 budget relative to the current fiscal year. This amounts to a total reduction of \$71,611.

To address this amendment, the Selectboard is asking all commissions, boards and staff to re-examine their budgets with the goal of finding some reductions that can contribute to meeting the required total budget reduction.

Understanding that some commissions, boards and staff have already level funded or even reduced their budgets for FY 10-11, the Selectboard nevertheless asks that you reconsider your budgets in light of the Town Meeting vote.

The Selectboard asks that you submit proposed revisions by April 22, in order to allow the Selectboard to discuss potential revisions at its meeting on April 26.

Thank you for your efforts!

The commission believes that our budget, which already indicates a 10% decrease from previous year, is adequate. We will consider submitting a more refined budget, if not necessarily a reduced budget.

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NATURE NOTES

Multiple bobcat sightings on Mt Philo Road, gray fox on Orchard, pack of coyotes sunning themselves in Holmes Brook Matrix.

FARM NOTES

8 piglets on Mt Philo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soils workshop 3/25

Septic Systems and our Lakes Ponds, and Streams 4/8

Vernal Pools Citizens Scientist Workshop 4/14 (Shelburne)

Farm to Plate statewide presentation 4/10 Rutland

Composting with NRCS 4/13

Association of VT Conservation Commissions Meeting 4/17