

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES March 24, 2009 Final

Present: Anne Bijur, Trafton Crandall, Linda Hamilton, Suzy Hodgson, Bob Hyams, Karol Josselyn, Gary Pittman, and Holly Sullivan.

MINUTES

Minutes of February 24 meeting were reviewed and approved with submitted corrections and clarifying language.

SECRETARIAL ASSIGNMENT

Bob Hyams assumed the role of secretary for this meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Energy Task Force: report of March meeting and next steps

Anne and Suzy reported on the March meeting and proposed next steps. 23 members of the Charlotte community at-large, and Jenny Cole from the selectboard, attended the March 17 meeting. The brain storming session yielded 4 pages of ideas (can't wait to see them). It was decided that the committee would hold monthly meetings. Linda recommended that Suzy and Anne propose an operational structure for the committee and present this to Selectboard soon so the group can be formalized. Suzy attended the March 23 Selectboard meeting to:

Inform them that the CCC is ready to move forward with the committee, and the selectboard should be prepared to make appointments soon.

Discuss town participation in Way to Go! Commuter challenge program [HYPERLINK "http://www.waytogovt.org/"](http://www.waytogovt.org/)
<http://www.waytogovt.org/>

Discuss opportunities related to Vermont Community Climate Change grants [HYPERLINK](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/Planning/docs/climatebrochure.pdf)
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Groundwater Mapping Project: report of March meeting and next steps

Gary reported on the March 11 presentation by the state hydrologists/geologists. The meeting was well attended, and a general plan was presented for work to begin this spring and extend into the summer. Volunteers are needed, and Gary will coordinate these efforts. The March 11 PowerPoint presentation will be added to the CCC website.

Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge: update

Due to time constraints this item will be moved to next meeting's agenda.

Conservation Currents

Content and protocol were discussed. All submissions will go thru Suzy. Typically, every other Charlotte News issue will include a feature article. Any announcements or notes (related or not) can be added after the feature. Bob is up for April 9, with Holly on-deck.

NEW BUSINESS

Application to Conservation Fund

The Charlotte Land Trust contacted Linda regarding a potential application to the Conservation Fund to purchase development rights on a property in East Charlotte. Linda, and Trafton reviewed the proposed conservation easement within the context of the Charlotte Significant Habitat Map and presented their findings and recommendations. After discussion, the group concurred that the property has important habitat connectivity and other resources worth preserving. CCC supports an application to the Conservation Fund for this purpose.

New Water Quality Monitoring Initiative

CCC discussed the application submitted by Bob (working as an individual citizen, not representing CCC) to the state for sampling and testing of waters from an unnamed tributary of Holmes Creek. Submitted to Neil Kamman, the application requests lab services for a single sampling site near the confluence with Lake Champlain. The sampling will attempt to capture significant rain events in addition to regular weekly or bimonthly testing. CCC agreed to endorse the request and submit a letter of support.

Discussion with Prospective Member Howard Verman

Howard Verman (Upper Old Town Trail) attended his second meeting and has submitted a letter of interest to the CCC and Selectboard. Discussion centered on his particular interests and relevant skill set. We encourage Howard to pursue appointment by the Selectboard.

Funding of Greenup day T-shirts

John Quinney is once again coordinating Green-up Day for us. CCC agreed to allocate approximately \$100 for John to purchase official Green-up Day t-shirts to give away as in years past.

CCC Membership Developments

Karol and Linda announced their retirements from the commission due to other commitments. Karol has served for 5 years and Linda for more than 13, with most of that time as chair. Karol's term expires this month, Linda's term in 2011. Their contributions have been significant, and they will both be missed. Linda's resignation is effective end of April, but she will continue at least through 2009 as a member of the wildlife Habitat Map Update Team, and as coordinator of the monthly WILD LIFE articles in the Charlotte News.

Nature Notes...bald eagles, bobcat, bluebirds, song sparrows, saw-whet owls, male turkey in full plumage display, woodpeckers working over cedar shake siding.

Next meeting: April 28, 7:00-9:00PM

Announcements: (none?)

Submitted by Robert Hyams, Secretary of the Month

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