

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Draft Minutes Meeting of October 27, 2009, Charlotte Library, 7:30-9:15 pm.

In attendance: Bob Hyams, Suzy Hodgson, Mariana Du Brul, Howard Verman, Holly Sullivan, Gary Pittman, Robert Mack

Suzy Hodgson was appointed as recording secretary for this meeting.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Website. Gloria Warden (planning and zoning) and Jenny Cole (selectboard) are soliciting feedback from town organizations that use the website. The information will be used to modify/improve the services that the town receives from the website host. A new more workable template is under consideration.

Park Oversight Committee. Committee presented the updated management plan to Select Board on September 28. Committee will be returning for discussion of the management issues.

Burns property – SB is concerned about giving up control of town property but there is a need to provide a stewardship of Burns woods. The SB is considering 2 configurations for the open space plan, one would preclude the Nature Conservancy from taking on stewardship. They have deferred the decision about the open space plan and whether to have Nature Conservancy permanently manage the property until they hear from Planning Commission. Peter Schneider of Efficiency VT is working with Habit for Humanity to design the houses at Burns property to meet the standard of passive houses (90% better than international energy code) including thick walls with high insulation to eliminate almost all heat loss, minimal windows on the north, keeping windows to the south.

Trails Update. Holly reported that the Trails Committee is focusing efforts on establishing a trail with RR station on Ferry Road to the Beach. The easement from the railroad station to Lake Road (approximately .5 miles north of Ferry Road), and continuing along Lake Road (approx. 1 mile) to the Town Beach. Trails Committee is optimistic that they will garner widespread

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support for the proposed plan, yet still in search of \$\$\$. Trails committee meeting changed to first Tuesday of the month.

Energy update. Suzy reported on activities of the Energy Committee; the current focus is CCS plans for major renovation. Within the committee, there is concern that the school board has not adequately addressed energy issues. Two letters about the two bonds have been published in the local papers, “no” to the woodchip system, and a “qualified no” – i.e., the recommendation to postpone the renovation plans until energy efficiency is adequately addressed.

Raven Ridge Conservation Project. SB has decided to contribute \$15,000 to this project.

Groundwater Study

Major issues are groundwater supplies and hydrological hazards. 27 wells are being tested for the prevalence of natural contaminants. About 500 out of 900 wells were located for geological information. Map of surficial geology should be available mid-November and report completed by mid-summer 2010. The main benefits will be as an input to the Town planning process.

Thorp Brook

Water quality testing showed high levels of phosphorus, nitrogen, and turbidity.

New Business

Wetlands – it was agreed that Bob would invite Kim Greenwood to make a presentation about the range of options available to address wetlands (eg designation, delineation, review of the Town’s existing map (which is 10 years old) on December 8 at the Senior Center if the date works for Kim. Our neighbouring towns would also be invited and refreshments provided.

Instead of December’s meeting on the Tuesday, it was agreed to have a farm tour followed by planning meeting about aims and objectives on Saturday December 5.

Vermont Watershed grants through ANR– municipalities, nonprofits eligible to protect, restore, educate, etc for grants up to \$20,000. Applications due Dec 4 2009.

Next month’s meeting will be Monday, November 23 at 7 pm.

NATURE NOTES

Beavers bothering Bob. Hawks hovering over Suzy’s hens.

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Subdivision Applications followed by Conservation Commission

Susan Horsford	1033 Converse Bay Rd	Preliminary sketch plan (6/18)	Trafton Crandall	2 lot subdivision, lake shore
Lynn Mansfield	768 Mt Philo Road	Preliminary sketch plan (6/18)	Gary Pittman	
Old Town Trail Associates/Don Welch		completed	Gary Pittman	
Spears	SW corner of Lake and Ferry	Preliminary Sketch Plan 7/16	Bob Hyams Suzy Hogson	Division of 124 acres into 2 lots
Glascoe	Whalley Rd		Trafton Crandall	
Jordan	Spear Street	Preliminary Sketch Plan 8/20	Robert Mack	
Keenan	North Pasture Lane	Final Plant Hearing	Gary Pittman	2 lot subdivision
Sharrow	Mt Philo Rd	Preliminary Sketch plan 9/17/09	Gary Pitman	2 lot subdivision
Burns	Greenbush	Preliminary sketch plan 8/16/09	Bob Hyams Anne Bijur	5 lot (major) subdivision