

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Tuesday Dec 28, 2010 7:00-8:30 pm Town Hall

Members Present: Mariana Du Brul, Robert Hyams, Tiffany Shaw, Holly Sullivan, Howard Verman

Guest: Kate Lampton, Charlotte Land Trust

NEW BUSINESS

Kate Lampton: Charlotte Land Trust

Kate presented a potential conservation project, approximately 34 acres south of Pease Mountain. The property contains wooded habitat, and could contribute to north/south connectivity between Mt. Philo and Pease Mt.

Action - CCC will consult the significant habitat map to assess habitat values, and consider the connectivity value in context of adjacent landowner sentiments. Howard will serve as point.

Habitat Map update

- municipal planning grant - the town did not receive the grant, which was to be used for revising habitat related land use regulations.
- Bob has given the PC (Peter Joslin) the mac version. **Action:** Bob to follow up with PC
- Holly's Article introducing the map to the public is complete pending minor edits. **Action:** Holly to edit
- Tiffany questions whether the 2 different file formats (mac/PC) are needed. **Action:** Tiffany to follow up with Pam Brangan at Chittenden County Regional Planning.

Cons Fund Comments

- Do we as a commission want to comment on the ongoing public scrutiny of the Conservation Fund?

The Commission members decided YES. As a start, we will compile the historical record. **Action: Mariana to get more info; including actual ballot initiative approved in 96.**

- The Conservation Fund Memo, dated Nov 5, 2010 was endorsed by all members. It speaks specifically to the process. **Action:** Bob to submit to the select board.

Lake Champlain International (LCI) - Howard has spoken with members of this organization and believes that their water quality initiatives are likely to be consistent with CCC and town values. **Action:** Howard to learn more about Lake Champlain initiatives and connect with them on behalf of CCC.

- Lake Champlain International, Inc. (LCI) is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Our mission is the conservation, restoration and revitalization of Lake Champlain and the Lake Champlain watershed www.mychamplain.net.

Planning Commission: Subdivision Applications of note; Upper Old Town and Trono. Bob was designated to represent CCC at Trono Hearing. Both applications impact forested habitat. The Significant Habitat Map should inform our response to both applications.

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05445**

Results of SB Budget Hearing; The 2011-2012 budget was approved as submitted. Mt Philo bag-gate resolved, the CCC budget can be used for the purchase.

Inventory/Oversight of Town-owned lands: The Select Board requested that the CCC play a role in the oversight of town lands. Parcels of particular interest are those that are actively farmed (by whom?) and those that could provide lake access to the public. This initiative could lead to active land management roles for CCC, and could be extended to include existing and future open-space agreements. See attached Project Evaluation Criteria for more information. As a start, we will create an inventory that will inform town government and the public. **Action:** Tiffany and Bob to begin inventory process.

Mt Philo; Action: CCC members to help monitor supplies. **Action:** Bob to get key and bags to Tiffany

Charlotte News Submissions: We have the opportunity to submit monthly Conservation Currents. There is plenty to write about. To accomplish this, we need a schedule for submissions. **Action:** Holly to speak with Nancy Wood and create a schedule.

CCC Membership - concern was expressed regarding meeting attendance rates and the challenge of maintaining a quorum. **Action:** Bob will check with members regarding commitment.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES (August , September, October, Dec 9 Supplemental)

August: approved with minor edits

September: approved with minor edits

October: approved

Dec 9 Supplemental: Approved

NATURE NOTES

Sightings: Bobcat on Old Town Trail, large and tawny. Immature Goshawk at bird feeder. Large coyote across from Mt Philo. **Photos:** barred owl on Lake Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED AT JANUARY MEETING

- **CCS/CVU interface, liaison.** We are considering a watershed project that we would conduct in collaboration with CCS and/or CVU.
- How do we address public's concern regarding pesticides in the Pringle Brook wetland (VELCO substation)?
- **Website revisited** - we reiterated the need to actively manage - discussed the idea of finding an intern to help (Champlain College, CVU, Waldorf). The main question remains; ***who on the commission will step up and take charge?***

• **Town Plan Cliff (Bob) Note Project**

Bob, Howard, Tiffany, Gary, and Mariana shared their summaries with the commission. We will exchange files by email. If we think this is a worthwhile project, we should pick one of the submitted write-ups to use as a template.

ATTACHMENTS

Date: November 5, 2010
To: Charles Russell, Select Board Chair
From: Robert Hyams, Conservation Commission Chair
Subject: Conservation Fund

In light of the recent review of the Bean Farm operation, the Conservation Commission has identified the following opportunities to improve the Conservation Fund review process. Addressing these areas will improve our ability to advise the the Select Board in the fulfillment of their fiduciary responsibility regarding the Conservation Fund, and ultimately lead to a better result for the town.

1. Water quality is a town priority, as identified in 2.1.4 of the 2008 Town Plan. Adequately buffering streams is one of the best land management tools at our disposal. The 10 foot vegetative buffer requirement in the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Accepted Agriculture Practices (AAP) is often inadequate to protect surface waters from agricultural runoff. We believe the land conservation initiatives, such as those undertaken by the land trusts, offer the best opportunity to secure more substantial buffering. Where town funds are used, we believe they can be earmarked specifically for this purpose.
2. The Land Trusts submitted the application to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Fund well in advance of the submission to the town commissions tasked with advising the Select Board on Conservation Fund disbursements. If we received the application at the same time, we would have a better opportunity to provide complete, timely input to the process.
3. We should ensure that the Conservation Fund allocations are addressing the Town's conservation priorities. We anticipate the Conservation Action Plan will effectively identify these priorities and will be an invaluable asset in informing Conservation Fund disbursements. We support the efforts of the Planning Commission and Select Board to undertake this work.

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Charlotte Conservation Comm Project Evaluation Criteria 3/23/10

Necessary Conditions	
What Conservation Commission priority does the project address (Vision 2015)?	<p>Population is well –educated about conservation and has solid knowledge base about what’s special about Charlotte.</p> <p>Planning Board & Select Board take the CCC seriously and actively solicit and value their input and activities.</p>
What Town Plan component does the project support or enhance?	town-owned lands, section _____
Is there a Lead Advocate or team of advocates on the Conservation Commission?	
Is the Conservation Commission the best entity to take on this project?	Could be.
Does it require funding? If so, are there identifiable sources?	Depends on the intended final product for public consumption
What are the measurable, definable outcomes with recognizable milestones?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information compiled - public is informed - land use priorities established - leases written - public access increased
What are the opportunities for engaging the public, CCS, CVU?	- Charlotte public should be very interested, school opportunities could emerge.
Additional Information	
Does the project have support from the Select Board? A liaison?	Yes, Winslow LaDue

Does it require input/ participation from other town entities or outside organizations?	could involve PC, Trails, Recreation
Does it Build on current or past work?	Could use the habitat map
What technical capabilities are required?	Some mapping, desktop publishing. Could work with graphics professional
Where will they come from?	
Does the project address a large geographic scale or site of significance?	Both

CHARLOTTE CENTRAL SCH	HINESBURG ROAD 408	M05B06LC	23.82 ACRES & SCHOOL
CHARLOTTE PARK & WILDLI	GREENBUSH ROAD 1492 & SCENI	M05B01LC	275.06 ACRES:
MH/BURNS PROPERTY	GREENBUSH ROAD 3205	M05B05L2	54.20 ACRES:
OLD LANTERN/BARBER HILL	GREENBUSH ROAD 3250	M04B02L4	45.05 ACRES
GRANDVIEW CEMETERY	CHURCH HILL ROAD 401	M05B02L3	12.7 ACRES CEMETERY
TOWN POUND LOT	CHURCH HILL ROAD 1093	M05B02L1	133.20 ACRES:
TOWN FOREST	CHURCH HILL ROAD 1207	M05B03L3	3.0 ACRES:
GALBREATH/VLT	CHURCH HILL ROAD 1599	M05B02LC	10.34 ACRES:
TOWN BEACH & BATH HOUS	LAKE ROAD 1371	M01B01L2	16.04 ACRES & BLDG:
WHALLEY WOODS	WHALLEY ROAD 1407	M04B01LC	13.44 ACRES:
THOMPSONS POINT	THOMPSONS POINT ROAD 1700	M41B50L2	15359 FF & 168 ACRES:
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM	MUSEUM ROAD 215	M05B02L2	.10 ACRES & BLDG:
TOWN GARAGE	ROOT ROAD 182	M05B06L1	2 ACRES & TOWN GARA
CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRA	FERRY ROAD 115	M05B01L2	BLDG:
QUINLAN SCHOOLHOUSE	FERRY ROAD 131	M05B01LC	BLDG:
CHARLOTTE TOWN HALL	FERRY ROAD 159	M05B05L2	2.95 ACRES & BLDG:
WALTER IRISH SENIOR CEN	FERRY ROAD 212	M05B01L4	.8 ACRES & BLDG:
TOWN LANDFILL	PLOUFFE FARM LANE 800	M03B01L1	180.46 ACRES:

