

**Draft Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
June 6, 2016**

Members Present: Dana Hazen, Mary Hutchins, Shawn Kelley and chair Jon Bouton.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Graham Kelley.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ on Monday, June 6, 2016 in Room 312. Chair Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton noted a correction. He asked if there are any other changes to the Draft Minutes of May 2nd. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent with the noted change.
2. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Shawn Kelley asked to add Ottauquechee River Sampling to the agenda.
3. **Natural Resources Review:** Jon Bouton reported that Karen Douville and Janice Berger will be available in July to present the results of their evaluation.
4. **Wetlands Mitigation, Maxfield Property and Town Forest:** Matt Osborn called Parks and Recreation Department Director Tad Nunez via phone. He asked Tad to provide an overview of the draft wetlands mitigation agreement between the State of Vermont and the Town. Tad stated that in 2011, the Town entered an agreement with the State of Vermont regarding off-site wetlands mitigation for the Maxfield property that included wetlands in the Hartford Town Forest. The agreement was accepted by the Vermont Wetlands Division Director Alan Quackenbush and then Hartford Town Manager Hunter Rieseberg. The current Wetlands Director Laura Lapierre did not think the agreement was properly executed since it was not accepted by the Hartford Selectboard and did not have a permanent conservation plan. As a result, the agreement was revised and presented to the Vermont Wetlands Division for their review. Wetlands Director Laura Lapierre agreed to accept the language in the draft agreement. Tad requested that the Conservation Commission endorse the agreement and recommend that the Selectboard sign the agreement.

Shawn Kelley asked why the Town Forest was selected for mitigation and not the Hurricane Forest Wildlife Refuge. Tad Nunez responded that the Town Forest was selected due to the amount of wetlands needed for mitigation of the Maxfield property.

According to #5 of the agreement, “at any place where recreational trails may now exist or be established in the future, all crossing of wetland areas shall be bridged in a fashion that will allow crossing of wetland areas with minimal disturbance in the course of construction and maintenance.” Shawn Kelley expressed concern about the possible response from the mountain bike community regarding the change in the agreement. He stated that he doesn’t want to jeopardize the work of the Land Management Subcommittee. Tad responded that the agreement requires protection when there are trails through wetlands and that this follows the tread lightly philosophy and is good stewardship. Mary Hutchins noted that the HCC did not initiate the change in the agreement. She asked Tad if he is willing to attend a future meeting to affirm that if requested. Tad agreed.

Jon Bouton stated that he is OK with the agreement. He thanked Tad Nunez for being available to discuss the item with the Conservation Commission.

Shawn Kelley made a motion to recommend that the Hartford Selectboard accept the revised agreement with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. The motion was seconded by Dana Hazen

Shawn Kelley asked if the HCC could be held responsible for violations to the agreement. Jon Bouton responded that if violations occur, the HCC should report them to the Selectboard.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

5. **Land Management Subcommittee:** Matt Osborn reported that Jon Bouton, Dana Hazen and he met with consultant Brian Riordan to review the trails map. He asked Dana if the data is sufficient to print the trails map. Dana responded yes. Jon stated that the next step is to review the printed map. Jon, Mary and Matt agreed to meet on Monday, June 13th at 4:00 p.m. to plan the next LMS meeting.
 6. **Town Forest Boulders/Water Bar Work:** Matt Osborn reported that the Reservoir Road site visit with Department of Public Works Director Rich Menge and Highway Superintendent Allyn Ricker has not been scheduled. Jon Bouton responded that he is concerned about the erosion and sedimentation and does not want to see the work delayed much longer. The HCC agreed. Matt will follow-up with DPW.
 7. **Save Dewey's Pond Committee:** Jon Bouton reported that Janice Berger has agreed to serve on the Save Dewey's Pond Committee after she steps down from the Conservation Commission in August. Matt noted that the annual milfoil removal is scheduled sometime in July. .
 8. **Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Jon Bouton reported that the CROH Committee is planning a Hazard Awareness and Resilience Week August 22-27. The event coincides with the 5th anniversary of the Tropical Storm Irene flood and will culminate with a large event to be held August 27th. Matt Osborn stated that he hopes the HCC will have a table at the 8/27 event. The HCC agreed. Jon stated that CROH and the HCC had tables at the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party on June 2nd. Jon noted that the event was well-attended.
 9. **HCC Brochures:** Matt Osborn reported that since the HCC brochures are included under the conservation fund portion of the budget, there is no deadline to complete the project. Mary Hutchins presented a draft brochure "Living with Bears". Jon Bouton suggested including reference that the HCC produced the brochure. Mary stated that she will be working on revisions.
- 10. Announcements/Reports:**
- a. Green-Up Day: Matt Osborn reported that this year's Green-Up Day was a success. The weather cooperated. He stated that the HCC helped clean up an illegal dumping site on Old River Road and another on Jericho Street. He reported that several businesses and groups participated in Green-Up Day. He noted that RSG took on a major project of cleaning up Mill Road and the eastern side of Old River Road. He stated that there were a total of 364 volunteers and 3.85 tons of waste collected. In addition, 168 tires were collected. Matt reported that the Green-Up Day costs fell within the allocated budget.
 - b. Trails Day: Matt Osborn reported that the June 5th Trails Day event was postponed due to weather. It was rescheduled to Sunday, June 12th. Mary Hutchins asked what work the HCC should undertake. Matt responded general trail maintenance. He suggested scheduling a separate time to work on the kiosk. The HCC agreed. Matt noted that he is unable to attend. Mary, Shawn and

Dana are able to attend. Jon stated that he might be able to attend. Mary agreed to ensure that volunteers sign volunteer release forms.

- c. Ottauquechee River Sampling: Shawn Kelley reported that water sampling on the Ottauquechee River will begin on June 23rd and take place every two weeks for the remainder of summer.
- d. Recruiting New HCC Members: Jon Bouton reported that the HCC will need to recruit two members to reach full membership. Jon volunteered to prepare a posting on the Hartford List Serv about the HCC openings. Shawn Kelley suggested submitting regular listings on the List Serv. The HCC agreed.

11. Next Meeting: Jon Bouton reported that the next regularly scheduled HCC meeting will be held on Monday, July 11th.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.