

**Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
January 4, 2016**

Members Present: Janice Berger, Karen Douville and chair Jon Bouton.

Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Dana Hazen.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, Vermont, on Monday, January 4, 2016 in Room 312. Jon Bouton called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

- 1. Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. Karen Douville requested to add Town Forest Boulders and the Annual HCC Snowshoe Outing to the agenda. The HCC agreed.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** Jon Bouton asked if there are any corrections or additions to the Draft Minutes of December 7th. Being none, Jon stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent as written.
- 3. Land Conservation Priorities:** Karen Douville reported that she has a meeting with G.I.S. Planner Pete Fellows of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission scheduled for Wednesday, January 6th regarding mapping for the project. Matt Osborn reported that he checked with the Lister's office and was informed that in 2015, four parcels over 25 acres were sold in Hartford. Jon Bouton stated that the HCC plans to partner with Vermont Coverts to distribute welcome buckets with conservation literature to new owners of large parcels. Karen Douville suggested parcels over 50 acres. There was discussion regarding the four parcels as well as a few other parcels that are either on the market or soon to be listed that are important to maintaining wildlife habitat blocks and wildlife corridors in Hartford. Jon stated that it is important to try to be proactive about conserving land. Jon offered to present the buckets to the new landowners. The HCC agreed.
- 4. Land Management Committee (LMS) & the Town Forest Trails:** Matt Osborn reported that he heard from Brian Riordan that he expects to complete a draft of the Town Forest Trails Map sometime in early January. Jon Bouton noted that he has been walking the Town Forest boundary to see the proximity of the trails to the boundary.
- 5. Town Forest Debris:** Matt Osborn noted that Mary Hutchins stated that she would pick up the remaining roofing materials located on the south end of the Town Forest.
- 6. Linking Lands Alliance:** Karen Douville reported that the Linking Lands Alliance is currently trying to reenergize itself by taking a Keeping Track refresher course.
- 7. Save Dewey's Pond Committee:** Janice Berger reported that the Committee met this morning and are planning for the January 13th community meeting on the future of Dewey's Pond that will take place at the Ottawaquechee School at 6:30 p.m. She is hoping for a good turnout. Jon Bouton stated that he plans on attending. Janice stated that the purpose of the meeting is to

see if there is public support to save the pond. She will e-mail a flyer on the meeting to the HCC. Janice reported that previous funding for milfoil removal is not assured in the future.

- 8. Community Resilience Organization Hartford (CROH):** Jon Bouton reported that the CROH met last week. He noted that they developed a draft mission statement, objectives and actions. Jon is presently working on connecting the objectives with specific actions. Matt Osborn reported that CRO Vermont did not receive a second year of funding from the Vermont Community Foundation. Matt noted that a CRO Vermont retreat is planned for May at Norwich University.
- 9. Hartford Subdivision Regulations:** Matt Osborn reported that the Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on the Draft Subdivision Regulations for Monday, January 25th. If it goes well, a public hearing with the Selectboard may take place in mid-February. Karen Douville requested that Matt e-mail the HCC the final draft of the Subdivision Regulations. Matt agreed.
- 10. HCC Budget:** Matt Osborn reported that that Town Manager presented his budget to the Selectboard without making any changes to the HCC budget prepared by Planning Director Lori Hirshfield. At this point, the Selectboard have not finalized the budget.
- 11. Announcements/Reports:**
 - a. HCC Snowshoe: Karen Douville noted that the Annual HCC Snowshoe outing normally takes place in late February. She asked the Commission if they wanted to sponsor the event again this winter. The Commission agreed. The details of the event will be discussed at the February 1st HCC Meeting.
 - b. Town Forest Boulders: Karen Douville asked when we will go out to bid for the boulder and water bar work in the Town Forest. Matt responded he expects to release the bid invitation in March.
 - c. Recruiting New HCC Members: Jon Bouton asked Dana Hazen if he is interested in applying to serve on the Conservation Commission. Dana responded yes. Matt Osborn noted that he will provide Dana with an application. Jon stated that Dana has a great deal to offer to the HCC as a lifelong resident and forester.
- 12. Next Meeting:** Jon Bouton reported that the next regularly scheduled HCC meeting will be held on Monday, February 1st.
- 13. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.