Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
January 2, 2018

Members Present: Mary Hutchins, Tom Kahl and Shawn Kelley.
Staff Present: Planner Matt Osborn.
Others Present: Chuck Wooster.

A meeting of the Conservation Commission was held at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Jct. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 in Room 312. Shawn Kelley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda**: Shawn Kelley asked if there are any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.

2. **Approval of Minutes**: Shawn Kelley asked if there are any changes to the Draft Minutes of December 4, 2017. Being none, Shawn stated that the minutes are approved by unanimous consent as written.

3. **Natural Resources Review**: Tom Kahl started by providing background on the HCC's natural resource review.   Tom noted that Chuck Wooster is present to get feedback as a property owner with land rich in natural resources and ranked as priority parcels by the Vermont BioFinder.

    Chuck Wooster encouraged the HCC to be specific about why their land is important and to understand what are people drawn to about their land. Chuck Wooster suggested providing information about the current use program and other resources that help property owners manage their land. He listed several organizations including land trusts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Keeping Track, Vermont Coverts, Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont Audubon Society, Northern Woodlands magazine.

    Shawn Kelley thanked Chuck for attending the meeting.

4. **HCC Bylaws**: Matt Osborn presented a revised draft of the HCC Bylaws. It was agreed to continue discussion at the February 5th HCC Meeting.

5. **Town Forest Recreation Planning Project**: Matt Osborn reported that there will be a Town Forest Public Visioning Workshop on Tuesday, January 23rd with the consultant team (SE Group and staff from the Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation). Also planned for the day is a site visit to the Town Forest and a Steering Committee visioning session. Matt will be coordinating publicity for the public visioning session. Matt reported that Jon Bouton is working with mountain bikers to add other mountain bike trails not previously identified on the trails map.

6. **Town Forest Trail Signs**: Matt Osborn reported that he has a list of trail signs that he will be ordering for the Town Forest.

7. **Clean Water Advisory Committee**: Matt Osborn reported that a Clean Water Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10th at the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission. Matt will be attending.

8. **Announcements/Reports**:

    a. <u>Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission Regional Plan</u>: Matt Osborn reported that Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission completed a partial draft of the Natural Resources chapter. Matt submitted copies to the HCC. He also noted that he has requested a timeline on the Draft Plan including deadlines for submitting comments.
    b. <u>White River Tactical Basin Plan Meeting</u>: Matt Osborn reported that he attended the December 7th meeting on the Tactical Basin Plan for the White River in South Royalton. He noted that the Plan is being updated this year and there will be opportunities for public comment. He also noted that there will be future funding opportunities for projects identified in the Plan and that the Town should start to think about possible projects.
    c. <u>Act 171 Webinar</u>: Matt Osborn reported that he has signed up for the January 29th webinar and will be inviting the Planning Commission to join the HCC in attending. Act 171 requires Regional Plans and Town Plans to identify areas that are important as "forest blocks" and "habitat connectors" and plan for development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation.

9. **Next Meeting**: Shawn Kelley noted that the next regularly scheduled HCC meeting will be held on Monday, February 5th.

10. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.