

Conservation Commission of the Town of Halifax, Vermont: Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

November 26, 2019

Present: Stephan Chait (SC), Jessica Cooney (JC), Linda Huebner (LH, Dov Towler (DT)

Absent: Laurel Copeland (LC)

Meeting convened 7:02 pm

1. **Changes and/or Additions to Agenda** – add Conservation Commission report and beaver issues to New Business
2. **Minutes** - Voted to approve previous meeting minutes, of Oct 22, 2019.
3. **New Business: The Staying Connected Initiative** Nov. 6th meeting at Windham Regional Commission – SC attended– Jens Hilke presented and conducted meeting. He's speaking to towns and is interested in coming to Halifax. SC raised this at the last Halifax Select Board meeting and will present about it on Dec. 3rd. SC also spoke with Turner Lewis, Chair of the Planning Commission, who is also interested. All HCC members are encouraged to attend. SC will ask the Selectboard about having Jens present for 20 minutes at Halifax Meeting. If this does not work, then an alternative date will be discussed. (see Halifax Town Plan pp.34-38 for relevant information on Forest Blocks and Habitat Connectors.)
4. **New Business: Signs at Halifax Recycling Area** – SC attended last Select Board meeting and discussed Athena's signs and a covered bulletin board. Members were interested and Mitch suggested buying supplies and having a volunteer build it. SC will ask who built the small one by the Little Free Library and mailboxes in the town center, as a larger but similar one would work well for our purposes. SC will ask Athena to visit the site to offer suggestions from Windham Solid Waste Management District.
5. **New Business: Treasurer Update** – LH spoke with Patti Dow about various options for tracking/managing HCC's money. The simplest solution is to ask the Select Board to include a line item for HCC in the town budget and appropriate funds. SC will ask at the Dec 3 Select board meeting for inclusion in the budget with a starting appropriation of \$500. If the Select Board requires a formal request, HCC will submit a letter to that effect. The Select Board will hold budget meetings on two Saturday mornings in December at 8am.
6. **New Business: Halifax Conservation Commission Report for Annual Report** – SC drafted a report which all reviewed. Minor additions were made and all agreed that it should be submitted by SC as Chair of HCC.
7. **New Business: Beavers** – LH has heard more rumors of beaver related conflicts in town so asked if others were aware of any – no one was, but SC will talk to Brad Rafus at the next Select Board meeting. If there's interest in a presentation and/or field trip to see the water flow devices in Marlboro, LH will reach out to Skip Lisle and Patti Smith.
8. **Old Business: School's Food Waste (and trail)** – JC communicated with Sandy Petrak about composting food waste at the school. Sandy is working with Tara Lee Lane. Sandy provided more information about the large composter that the school has, but

hasn't yet installed underground. JC and Sandy also discussed updating the (Bill Ackerman memorial) trail behind the school and discussed a 'donate a board' fundraiser to build a bridge. JC will follow up on both ideas in the spring.

9. **Old Business: Emerald Ash Borer** – tabled since LC was absent
10. **Old Business: Denison Property** – still on the market; the house with 15 acres will be listed as separate from the large parcel.
11. **Old Business: Logo** – tabled since LC was absent
12. **Old Business: Halifax Conservation Commission on Social Media** – JC will publish the Facebook page with an HCC profile, which can be updated when we have a logo for the Commission.
13. **Old Business: Cultural Resources** – no news
14. **Other Business:** The meeting for December 24th is cancelled; the next meeting will be January 28, 2020.
15. Hearing of Visitors: none

Meeting adjourned 8:18 pm