

**Minutes of The CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF HALIFAX  
P.O. BOX 127  
WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358  
Conservation Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, January 28, 2020 7:00 PM at the Halifax Town Office**

**CALLED TO ORDER at 7:01 pm**

**PRESENT:** Stephan Chait (SC), Linda Huebner (LH), Jessica Cooney (JC), David Towler (DT), Laurel Copeland (LC)

**CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - none**

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

November 26, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes – approved (4 ayes, 1 abstention)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Staying Connected** – An Informational Meeting in Halifax: SC talked with Select Board about presenting at Town Meeting with Jens Hilke but JH not available for Town Meeting. The info would cover the scope of wildlife connectivity from Canada to southeastern US, impact on hunting, economics, and so on. Instead we could produce a flyer for distribution at the Informational Meeting (2/24 at 7pm) and at the Town Meeting (3/3) and at Community Breakfasts. The Town Meeting will offer 3 opportunities for us to talk: when we are asked for CC report, when vote on our budget line item of \$500 is brought to the floor, and when the signage at the Halifax Recycling Site is brought up.

SC, JC, LH, DT, LC will contemplate what to say.

**Signs at the Halifax Recycling Site** – For the Notice Board, SC brought 2 pictures of examples. The signage will include the message that it costs Town money when contaminants are added to the recycling bins. People sometimes leave stuff they cannot afford to pay to be picked up.

SC will call Athena about signs WSW has.

SC will ask Brad Rafus about where to put signage to avoid snowplows.

LC will ask Gary Rand whether he would volunteer to build it if we supply the materials.

**Return bin for deposit bottles at the Recycling Site** – General discussion of the pros and cons – dirty bottles & cans, bees, need to run the containers to the redemption center. What type of bin would work well and not host the bees so much? JC and LC tentatively volunteered to take the bottles & cans in from time to time.

DT will find out why Marlboro quit having bottle/can collection bins.

SC will talk with Athena of WSW.

JC will ask Principal Sandy Pentak-Cohen about the bin the school had.

**Treasurer Update** – a \$500 line item has been included in the Town budget, which will be voted on at the Town Meeting the first Tuesday in March.

**Beavers and Town Culverts** – Road crew sometimes runs into problems with beavers. SC asked the Road Commissioner about this. The road crew will no longer interfere with beavers. Culvert work gets into interactions with beavers. But the road crews are not going to harm beavers. Skip Lisle's Beaver Deceivers work quite well at keeping beaver works away from the roads. The Conservation Commission could present information on the Beaver Deceivers to the Town. Beaver Deceivers are expensive. JC told of an incident where private property owners expressed opposition to her statement that beaver management was of interest to the Conservation Commission, but wetlands management on Town property is of interest to the CC. Patti Smith of the BEEC is an excellent source of information about beavers.

The CC could host a presentation about beavers. The CC could pay for this or donate to the BEEC. **Invasive Species** is another information item.

**Windham Solid Waste Management District application to USDA** – letter of support SC drafted and submitted. The grant includes money to help communicate with Towns.

## OLD BUSINESS

School's Food Waste Composting and Management – JC has not gotten any info yet but will ask again. Lunch lady Bettye is also working on getting the device installed and the composting implemented. Food wastage is high.

Emerald Ash Borer in Windham County – education opportunity tomorrow in Newbrook Fire

Denison Property – Update Someone in Boston made an offer for the acreage and the house for the road frontage.

Logo – Update – Drawing program is difficult (Paint 3D). DT suggested something simpler such as just fern in a circle!

Conservation Commission on Social Media – the FB page is up and running! About 12 persons have liked it already. JC pinned tonight's agenda to the top. The page needs constant updates to keep people's interest. Send items to JC.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Green-Up** – JC wrote a blurb about Green-Up for Town Meeting. This upcoming event is the 50th! May 2, 2020. We can all help make a litter-free Halifax. Setting up bottle/can collection could be tied to Green-Up.

**Earth Day** – this will also be the 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day.

**Rich Holschuh** – JC contacted him and asked whether he or someone else from Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs could present information about the history of the Abenaki in the area. RH's response was encouraging. Here is the text of his response.

Hi Jessica,

Thank you for writing and for your expressions of interest and appreciation. I am grateful that folks are responding positively to learning the stories that have been repressed for so long.

Your co-commissioner David Towler (an old and very good friend) has actually been asking me the very same thing for a few months now. He has suggested that I come and present to the Commission about an indigenous perspective upon the landscape that is now Halifax, perhaps in a public informational setting. I have been unable to follow through over the past autumn, but maybe there can be some time in the next couple months. Let's figure that out, between David, you, and myself.

Thank you!  
Rich  
Rich Holschuh  
Wantastegok, Sokwakik  
Brattleboro, VT

**Broadband Committee** – has been formed. Windham Regional has a grant for feasibility study with survey. David Jones, Tristan Roberts, Bob Teree, Cara Cheyette, and Stephan Chait are on the committee. There will be an item on the Town warrant on whether to establish a Broadband Communications Union District.

**Road Crossings** – Mapping Subgroup of Wildlife Connectivity needs input on where Moose, Bear, Bobcat, Otters, and Fishers cross roads. JC said she sees bears and moose cross Reed Hill Road.

**HEARING OF VISITORS** – None present.

**Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 25, 2020.**

**ADJOURNMENT at 8:32 pm.**