

**THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF HALIFAX
P.O. BOX 127
WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358**

**DRAFT Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020 7:00 PM
Halifax Town Office**

Attendees: Stephan Chait (SC), Linda Huebner (LH), Dov Towler (DT), Jessica Cooney (JC), Laurel Copeland (LC)

CALL TO ORDER at 7:02 pm

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - none

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes – 1 correction re: spelling of Bob Teree’s name. Unanimous approval of corrected minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Conservation Commission Members – LH’s 1-year term is drawing to a close; the March meeting will be her last. She is too committed to other projects to continue in the role. SC will notify the Select Board that the Commission has a vacancy so they can solicit nominees and appoint a replacement. SC voiced the hope that LH could continue an additional meeting if the appointment of a new fifth member did not occur in time for the April meeting.

Town Meeting – Report on Conservation Commission and Green-Up Day

At the Town Meeting on March 3, SC will make a brief presentation on Conservation Commission activities as part of the Department Reports. This will include the Staying Connected Initiative. SC will bring 30 or so copies of the Staying Connected Initiative flyer (1-page with maps on the back) to the Town Meeting for general distribution. SC will include Laurel’s work on animal crossings roads. JC will comment regarding Green-Up Day to encourage participation.

Organizing Conservation Commission Events and Programs/Presentation – the members discussed prioritization of the 4 proposed presentations or programs.

Staying Connected – for now we are making flyers. Possibly the VLT Visioning meeting could occur in Halifax or nearby (Guilford).

Beavers and Culverts - #2 choice because of strong sentiments and many misconceptions about beavers that appear to be common. Possible presenters include Patti Smith and Skip Lisle. LH & DT will inquire about speaker fees and will offer an honorarium or donation if no fee.

Invasive Species – no expert identified. JC described the introduction of a small wasp to help control EAB. She shared a Commons article about this effort from last November. The state of Vermont is looking for landowners in EAB-infested

areas who will permit release of the predator (but non-stinging) wasp. Contact for those with questions is Barbara.Schultz@Vermont.gov.

Indigenous People - #1 choice to try to schedule with Rich Holschuh in May or June, in the Hall (or School if internet connection is needed). LH & DT will inquire about speaker fees and will offer an honorarium or donation if no fee. The Halifax Historical Society will be invited to collaborate / participate.

OLD BUSINESS

Logo – Update – JC showed an example of a circle containing a feather toward the top (air) and a fern frond toward the bottom (earth) with the words, “Halifax Conservation Commission” in the middle. All members liked it. A serif font will be tested. Members agreed to donate their own pocket money to all small costs such as copyrighted images (currently est. \$2 for the 2 images) until a larger budget item arises.

Signs at the Halifax Recycling Site – SC and Athena discussed signage the WSW can supply. SC and Brad Rafus discussed placement of signage at the recycling site, in terms of snowplow needs.

Return bin for deposit bottles at the Recycling Site – DT is still making inquiries. SC described Windham Solid Waste Management District setup (small bin for bottles; large bin for cans) and signage (canvas). JC reported talking with Sandy P-C (Halifax School principal) about the old one. Someone put it together from scrap lumber. It worked well until the person got tired of taking the bottles/cans to the redemption center. In terms of citizen convenience, LH pointed out that it is more convenient if the recycling site includes the deposit bottles/cans for 1-stop drop-offs.

Composting at the school and backyard composting

Windham Solid Waste Management District application to USDA – letter of support previously described

OTHER BUSINESS – none.

HEARING OF VISITORS – none.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:46 pm