

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION for the TOWN OF HALIFAX
P.O. BOX 127, WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358
Minutes of Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Members: Stephan Chait (SC; Chair), Linda Huebner (LH), Dov Towler (DT), Jess Cooney (JC), Laurel Copeland (LC)

Visitors: Andrea Rand (AR), David Erickson (DE)

CALL TO ORDER at 6:34 pm

The meeting is being recorded and broadcast on Zoom.

After the meeting, recording available at

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YJSk_5JdbhhlRID6aroor8iboHr9oa7d6bz-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YJSk_5JdbhhlRID6aroor8iboHr9oa7d6bz-zfxtI0uo3TJhct6ScldK7MVn-4GY.7NVY6VBGW7DK7-ZH)

[zfxtI0uo3TJhct6ScldK7MVn-4GY.7NVY6VBGW7DK7-ZH](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YJSk_5JdbhhlRID6aroor8iboHr9oa7d6bz-zfxtI0uo3TJhct6ScldK7MVn-4GY.7NVY6VBGW7DK7-ZH) and you need to use this passcode:

S#01conserve

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

September 22, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Beavers Educational Program – Cooperation with Green River Watershed Alliance

Work on a one-page document – SC & LC drafted a trifold flyer. After revision by the HCC, it will be sent to Margot Ghia at the Green River Watershed Alliance for their comments as the flyer is a joint project. Please send suggestions by Thursday 10/29/2020.

JC suggested adding “What is a keystone species?” AR suggested adding photo credits (both photographers are living in Halifax). The timing of the release of the flyer was discussed. After discussing the timing of beaver trapping season (October through March) and the inadvisability of trying to educate people during the holiday season, LH suggested putting the flyer out in February or March. SC commented that he used material from Patti Smith, the website “Beaver Solutions”, and Juniper Kozlowski’s 2011 research paper in gathering content for the flyer. AR contacted Mike Clough.

Beaver Deceiver™ on Pennel Hill Road – LH reported that Skip Lisle completed the structure; he has been paid for his work by the landowner. The Town also benefits from the work as it will help with roadway preservation and maintain a water source for the fire department. Spending money on waterflow devices can save money on road maintenance. JC & AR spoke with the owner.

The lethal solution appears less expensive up front, but the waterflow devices are a better long-term solution (10-15 years). The Conservation Commission may want to present to the Select Board on the environmental and economic benefits of waterflow control devices.

Skip is very passionate about this work. Observers commented that he went in the water and climbed through the culvert, too.

Beaver Pond in Marlboro – Property owned by the Masonic Lodge 38 has a beaver pond on Adams Crossroad. They gave the neighbor permission to trap the beavers.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Site Visit at School: Draft letter – no update from SC & LC. DE visited the bridges in the wetlands; they are in poor condition as are the trails. DE has more photos. These will be added to the site report.

Relocation of Recycling Bins to Town Garage

Signage and New Bulletin Board – Update: SC communicated with the new recycling coordinator at Windham Solid Waste Management District, John Fay has redesigned the signs. Please send any comments or suggestions to SC. The signs will be 11 x 17 inches. See images.



Composting - Education (State Scrap Food Regulations) – Update: Required as of July 1, 2020! Options include home composting and WSWMD COW program (\$40/year for a sticker then free drop-off of your home kitchen scraps M-F 7a-3p & Sat 8a-1p).

Windham Solid Waste Management District application to USDA – Update: The grant is now in place and will pay for the printing of the new signage (above).

Invasive Plants – Phragmites in Halifax– Update: DT talked with property owner (corner of Hatch School Road & Hanson Road) who immediately took care of it.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Halifax Newsletter could use monthly conservation topics; submit to LC (laurelacopeland@gmail.com).

HEARING OF VISITORS

DE suggested using Google docs to share and develop ideas for example for newsletter topics.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:35 pm