

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

**Conservation Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:30 PM**

Meeting on Zoom (Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7814490827> or call +19292056099,,7814490827#)

CALL TO ORDER at 6:33 pm with Jessica C, Dov T, Stephan C, Laurel C, Linda H, Linda L, David E.

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – JC added Green-Up Day 2021; LC added EV charging stations

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes – motion JC, 2nd LH, unanimous among voting members.

NEW BUSINESS

Beavers Educational Flyer – Production and Mailing Costs and Logistics: SC looked into costs of printing and mailing 600 pieces for 582 voters came to about \$700 (\$296 for printing & folding, env \$35, cover letter \$50, postage) and get labels from Patty Dow. Discussed with Margo of Green River Watershed Alliance; may be able to contribute a small amount of their \$1000. LC & SC are both willing to pitch in some money. HCC budget of \$500 could cover some. Staples does mailings via a program that prints & stuffs & mails; SC will seek another estimate. LC asks Patty Dow whether the town could print this for us; unclear answer. Trifolding may best be done by a machine (LL). LH suggested asking C&S in Brattleboro for an estimate which tends to be much cheaper than Lotus. Bulk non-profit mailing is cheaper than 1st class. SC will follow-up with Margot about that. BEEC might be able to do the bulk mail as an NFP if the BEEC logo on there; talk to Patti Smith. DE asked whether the town could do the mailing; LC will ask Patty Dow. One of the SB members has reviewed the flyer. The town mails a postcard on occasion, the tax bill, and as little as possible else. Cover letter would add \$50 and put the flyer in context. LH is confused about the collaboration with Margo (or BEEC) but the letter would be able to explain. Explain recycling in the letter, too (LL). A cover letter is also an opportunity to introduce the Halifax Conservation Commission.

Green Burials – an attempt to reduce the use of wood & metal in coffins, and the use of formaldehyde, and the use of energy to cremate. Penfield Chester is knowledgeable about this issue; Halifax Conservation Commission could invite her to present at the Halifax Community Hall after the pandemic. Clif Inman commented a few years ago that the Halifax Cemetery does not prohibit green burials. There is a green hybrid cemetery in Brattleboro, on Orchard Street. It is possible to bury family members on your own land. More info: www.greenburialvermont.org. Does the Town have a policy on in-home wakes? On burial depth? Mike Mayer is a resource as well. He is with Manitou, <http://www.manitouproject.org>. His mother is buried among the trees on family land, and Mike is pursuing a permit to allow

non-family to have green burial there. Here is a VT Digger article about him and his passion for green burial: <https://vtdigger.org/2021/01/10/people-who-love-the-land-are-getting-interested-in-green-burials/>. SC proposed an event outdoors, post-pandemic crisis, and LL suggested an event indoors once everyone has had a chance to get vaccinated to avoid bad weather and very limited group size. LH will look into this issue: town rules, home burial, contact Penfield and Mike. JC can talk to Patty Dow. LL mentioned there might be a short video on this.

Letter of Support for Windham Solid Waste Management District application to USDA – SC circulated his letter for them. They are waiting to see where their application goes. John Fay is very interested in having outdoor events.

Windham Solid Waste Management District – Program on food waste recovery

Options for Composting – Robert Spencer & John Fay met with Lewis Sumner & Stephan Chait at recycling bins at the Town Garage. Food waste cannot go into the land fills in Vermont. See <https://dec.vermont.gov/waste-management/solid/universal-recycling>. At events, WSWMD will explain how to prevent animals getting at your composting and on food wasted recovery. It would be good to have someone at Halifax Celebration when that resumes.

Charging stations for EV – Vermont has a goal of 25% EV by 2030. 1 in Marlboro College campus, maybe Tesla station on Canal Street...what is the # of EV in Vermont? Does Whitingham have a comparable committee? LL willing to approach them. SC will ask Mark & Edee where they charge their EV. DE provided a link to <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/for-businesses>. Other resource:

<https://vermontjournal.com/featured-articles/cavendish-set-to-go-live-with-their-ev-charging-station/>

Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/electric-vehicle-supply-equipment-evse-grant-program>

<https://www.wcax.com/2021/01/12/richmond-among-11-communities-to-host-new-ev-charging-stations/>

Green-up Day 2021 – JC commented on the emails about picking up trash on the roads. Green-Up Day is the first Saturday in May every year. This year Green-Up Day will be May 1st. Jessica and Hope will man a table where you can get green trash bags. Last year was KO'ed by COVID-19 pandemic. School children might be looped in as part of environmental education. Speak with the principal Sandy Pentak-Cohen. Jessica & David will team up to draft something for the school.

OLD BUSINESS

Report on Site Visit at School – Drafting a letter to the principal has been backburnered, but DE commented that this is a really good time to send it as spring is coming. The letter will include David's information and pictures and will say that the Conservation Commission responded to her earlier request and is in a position to help facilitate further discussion of

cleaning up the trails. The beavers: dam by the bridge washed out. DE happy to talk by phone with SC to draft the letter.

Signs at the Recycling Bins at the Town Garage – Update – The new signs look good. Spencer and Fay (WSWMD) have been going town to town looking at bins and recycling. WSWMD decided they should give the bins to the towns. Lewis Sumner said he has heard very positive feedback about the signs. There is anecdotal evidence that contamination has gone down. Still some confusion regarding 1-stream vs 2-stream recycling because signs disagree with what the bins say. This will likely get resolved when Halifax renegotiates contract with Casella.

Invasive Plants – Phragmites in Halifax – Update – tackle them every July.

Bottle deposits – Cleaning and taking bottles & cans to redemption center; JC willing to redeem them.

OTHER BUSINESS – none

HEARING OF VISITORS – no additional comments

ADJOURNMENT at 7:46 pm.