

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF HALIFAX, P.O. BOX 127, WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358
DRAFT Minutes of the Halifax Conservation Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:30 PM

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

Attendees: Stephan Chait—Chair (SC), Linda Huebner—Treasurer (LH), Jess Cooney (JC), Dov Towler (DT), David Erickson (DE), Laurel Copeland—Clerk (LC)

CALL TO ORDER at 6:32 pm

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

(SC) Other business: Emerald Ash Borer

(SC) Other business: Windham Regional Commission meeting with Rich Holschuh on Cultural Resource Issues along the Connecticut River

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

January 28, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes – moved & seconded, no changes, unanimous approval by HCC

NEW BUSINESS

Update/ Reform of Act 250 – H 120 – (SC) Governor signed an Executive Order changing the Act 250 structure and hearing process. The Senate rejected it. The House and Senate are now working on revisions to Act 250 to keep hearings local. Our rep is John Gannon. DT asked if the HCC could be involved in an Act 250 action in Halifax? SC replied that both SB and Planning Commission were involved last time, so Conservation Commission could get involved.

Charging Stations for Electric Vehicles (EV) – SC talked with Edee and Mark about how they recharge their EV. They use the kit to plug into the household electricity overnight at 110V. They could install a 220V outlet and use that to charge more quickly. When driving, they look for non-Tesla charge stations. Their EV can travel 100 miles before needing recharge. In Brattleboro, the lot behind the PO has 2 charging stations that they can access using a card. Some recharge stations provide a free recharge. One at Marlboro College. Some in Wilmington. The Halifax Conservation Commission will keep an eye on the proliferation of EV stations. **[Action Item]** JC volunteered to ask Kristine Sweeter at Whitingham Library about their level of interest in hosting an EV recharge station.

Green-up Day 2021

Possible Materials for Halifax Elementary School – JC explained her work toward promoting the 2021 Green-Up Day including posters and prizes. Hope Phelan is unable to assist this year. JC tries to get fruit and such to hand out to the volunteers. JC is working with Patty to come up with more ideas.

[Action Item] All members of the HCC should try to spread the word to get more volunteers out on Green-Up Day (May 1).

OLD BUSINESS

Beavers Educational Flyer – Production and Mailing Costs and Logistics: we hope to get this printed and out in March. LC reported that the Town is willing to print it and

use our \$500 budget. They are unable to do the trifold. SC proposed we use the Voters List labels for the mail-out, as opposed to the Property Owners List (50% are out of state). JC & LC agreed. LH commented that if we do, we miss people who own beaver wetlands such as the person on Pennel Hill Road but aren't residents. It would be good to include people on both lists. The HCC members concurred with this reasoning. SC will talk with Patty Dow to find out how to get the union of the two lists. Windham Regional cannot cover the cost of the mailing. HCC members are happy to help stuff & stamp the envelopes. It will occur at dispersed locations (our homes) to avoid gathering.

Green Burials – LH talked with Mike Mayer of Manitou in Williamsville regarding getting approval to have non-family members green-buried this year, possibly this spring. LL and LH were unsure how to coordinate Penfield and Mike as speakers on the topic. LH proposed we wait until Manitou is approved before we organize an informational event. Information could include shallow burial (why it works and why deep burial is not preferred for green burial). LH's first conversation about green burial was with Cliff Inman some years ago, regarding regulations around body burial (embalming, vault).

Report on Site Visit at School

Letter and Report – SC sent the cover letter and the report which David put together in which he used information and photos from the site visit, in an email to Sandy Pentak-Cohen in early February.

Next Steps – DE commented that the school is on break right now and dealing with an outbreak in one of the pods. We need to know the goals of the school regarding the trail and wetlands area before we can go further with this project.

OTHER BUSINESS

Emerald Ash Borer – Guilford has been surveying trees along roads and has produced an informational report on the EAB problem and how to deal with affected and at-risk ash trees. EAB is in northern and western Windham County. Halifax Conservation Commission – still no replacement for LH; DT willing to be re-appointed.

Rich Holschuh spoke at a joint meeting about 5 hydroelectric dams along rivers in VT and MA. Native tribes have a very different and more holistic view of the relationship between fish, water, and humans than the European America view of exploitation for human benefit. In his culture, which is oriented toward water, that people would be buried close to water in the soil. Dams impact burials and unbury many people. DT commented that he has discussed this with RH, and that it is possible there are people buried by the Green River. LC recommended the book named River Horse by William Least Heat Moon.

HEARING OF VISITORS

DE asked about composting education. SC is still planning to talk with John Fay of WSWMD, and WSWMD is waiting to get their grant to fund educational activities.

HCC Meetings: The next meeting will be March 23rd at 6:30 and via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:30pm