

THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION of the TOWN OF HALIFAX
P.O. BOX 127, WEST HALIFAX, VT 05358
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 6:30 PM

Meeting at 1581 Hanson Road in Halifax and on Zoom (Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7814490827> or call +19292056099,,7814490827#).

Attendees: Stephan Chait (Chair; SC), Dov Towler (Member; DT), Lesley Pollitt (Treasurer; LP), Laurel Copeland (Clerk; LC), Mary Horne (MH), Earl Holtz (EH)

Unable to attend: Jess Cooney (Member; JC)

CALL TO ORDER at 6:35 pm

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2021 – Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Flood Resilient Communities Fund. Ideas for the opportunity to do meaningful flood mitigation projects. – Money is available for feasible projects that reduce flooding and improve water quality. “\$4,636,000 is available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for projects under the Flood Resilient Communities Fund in fiscal year 2022, as allocated by the Vermont Legislature.... Applications will be accepted in two rounds, due: **Friday, October 29, 2021**, and **Monday, January 31, 2022.**” DT asked whether there are proposals for erosion control on difficult spots on Halifax roads, e.g., on the Green River or on the North River. Send your ideas to SC. The CC would submit any ideas to the Select Board by October 5 or so.

OLD BUSINESS

Inventory of Ash Trees in Halifax – Training session on October 14th 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Tree Warden Sue Kelly has arranged this training to be held at the Town Office (in person with a representative from the state). Because COVID cases are increasing in Windham County, the session may be cancelled. The current hotspots in the state are mapped on the state website, <https://www.vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont>, including the large map at <https://vtanr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=cfd4013ad1464b7b9103a3d7806f0cc5>.

Composing Food Waste Workshop in Halifax – Athena presented the workshop in the village of West Halifax at September 18th to 14-15 persons, outdoors. Details included how to help dry out an overly wet compost pile, how to balance the elements, and what equipment is available. LP suggested the highlights be published in the Halifax newsletter. SC has the handouts to share with LC.

Planning for an Event/Program with Rich Holschuh (RH) on the Abenaki, the first people living in what is now Southern Vermont. Format for the meeting

- virtual or in-person. DT commented that inasmuch as we are not even meeting in person anymore, it does not seem likely we can have this event in person. We propose to postpone the event until next June or July. DT will let RH know.

Beaver Education Flyer use by Green River Watershed Alliance. This flyer was mailed out to about 600 registered voters at almost 400 addresses. SC discussed it at a GRWA meeting. They asked whether GRWA could use the flyer. Linda Lembke (LL) would also like to use it in her CC. SC has not seen any response to the mailing in Halifax. LP wondered if the newsletter might be a place to present the information. SC emailed the flyer to Patti Smith, LL, and Margo Ghia. EH commented on the difficulty of getting persons to participate or respond to mailings about tree issues.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

HEARING OF VISITORS – No additional remarks.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:21 pm. Next meeting will be October 28, 2021.