

**TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2016**

Present: Peter Gaskill, Michael Fairchild, Drew Adam, Steve Shriner, Peter Seares
Staff: Sue Fillion

A. Call to Order

S. Shriner called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM.

B. Announcements

1. Regional Conservation Commission Gathering – March 31, Putney

S. Shriner and D. Adam reported on the March 31 event. There was a speaker from Landmark College that spoke about identifying ash trees on the streets. S. Fillion advised that Brattleboro has completed an inventory.

2. Other

S. Fillion advised that the Planning Department has begun to work on a Smart Growth Implementation Assistance project with the EPA that will look at redeveloping the Whetstone Corridor from Main Street to 250 Birge Street keeping in mind climate change. She encouraged the Conservation Commission to participate in public meetings that will be held June 6-8. The Conservation Commission felt that a walk of the project area would be useful.

C. Approval of Minutes

No action taken. There was no quorum for the March meeting so there are only notes, not minutes.

D. Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments.

E. New Business

1. Citizen Science Workshop Recap

The Commission discussed the event. The Commission reviewed the volunteer forms that people had signed out at the tables. It was agreed to send them a letter and invite them to a future Conservation Commission meeting. Many requested to be added to the email list.

2. Japanese Knotweed Project

a. iNaturalist Citizen training

The Commission agreed to have the iNaturalist training working on Mapping Healthy Forests Workshops as offered by the VT Department of Forests Park & Recreation. S. Fillion will contact Elizabeth Spinney to find out when she can come down, ideally in June. There was a discussion about targeting waterways rather than the entire town.

b. Other

No other discussion on the topic.

3. Brattleboro Area Trails Committee

P. Gaskill advised that he will be holding a work bee on Friday from 5:30 – 7:30 on the Ames Book trail (aka Stockwell Trail).

F. Old Business

1. AVCC Grant – Stockwell Trail

S. Fillion reported that the signs and tools have been purchased. There is a balance of \$210.59 that must be spent by June.

2. Land Conservation and River Corridor Easements

S. Fillion advised that 250 Birge Street has a purchase and sales agreement in which Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) would buy the property. VRC will be submitting the site into the brownfields program. Steve Libby from VRC is trying to line up funding sources and has submitted for two grants.

3. Trails Projects

There was discussion as to whether work needs to be done on Round Mountain trails.

4. Development Review Projects

S. Fillion reported the following projects: Brattleboro Music Center is applying for site plan review at the Austine Prouty building; a sketch plan discussion of a conservation subdivision on Upper Dummerston Road, and sketch plan discuss of Winston Prouty's Planned Unit Development at the Austine campus. P. Gaskill noted that access to the Whetstone can be made from the BMC property and it would be good to reserve this for future extension of the Whetstone Pathway. P. Seares asked that the conservation commission be reviewed to see if there are natural resources on the property. S. Fillion will share copies of the applications.

G. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM