



Brattleboro Planning Services

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TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES April 28, 2020

NOTE: Per the “Stay home – Stay Safe” order issued by governor Scoot, this meeting was held with no physical location using GoToMeeting.

Conservation Commission Members: Drew Adam, Jesse Wagner, Marilyn Chiarello, and Ashlyn Bristle

Absent: Laurie Callahan and Erin Rodgers

Staff: Sue Fillion and Andrew Graminski

Guest: Stephen Dotson, Sustainability Coordinator

A. Call to Order

D. Adam called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

B. Announcements

S. Fillion made an announcement that the selectboard approved the Conservation Commission for submitting for the 2020 AVCC tiny grant to go towards funding interpretive signs along a portion of the West River Trail. Planning staff have submitted application and are awaiting approval of grant.

C. Approve Minutes of February 25 and March 10, 2020 minutes

Minutes will be approved at next meeting.

D. New Business

1. Japanese Knotweed 2020 field season

A Graminski gave an update to commissioners about a knotweed control area sign that he is developing that will be put up at West River Park and other associated areas that have knotweed infestation. A. Graminski asked commissioners for their thoughts on his first draft. Commissioners discussed text ideas, design, as well as the size of the poster. Commissioners thought it would be a good idea to create two signs. One sign will be about knotweed control areas and the other sign will be more informative about how to identify knotweed. Both signs will solicit for volunteers to help with removal efforts.

The commission discussed dates in May for potential knotweed removal in small groups at West River Park that still adhere to the Governors “Stay Home, Stay Safe” protocols. S. Fillion will get in touch with Recreation and Parks Director about allowing the commission to be able to go remove knotweed at the park because it is currently closed to the public. Potential dates that the commission discussed were May 12 and 19. Commission agreed that both dates should have parties out there removing knotweed sense no more than 5 people can probably be at the park at one time. Once S. Fillion gets a response from Recs and Parks Director, she will correspond

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with the commission with further details and how many people per group and if the dates they set aside for this effort will work.

2. 2019 Association of Vermont Conservation Commission grant closeout

The commission decided to use the remaining funds from the 2019 AVCC tiny grant to purchase a variety of invasive removal tools to help with the continual effort to eradicate Japanese Knotweed. A. Graminski made a list of tools and prices for the commission to look through and provide comments. The commission discussed the best tools to purchase for this effort and agreed on a set of tools that should be purchased by planning staff. Planning staff will consolidate the list and prices and make the purchase before May 1.

3. Future Earth Day Celebration

The commission decided to push the Earth Day Celebration event to next April 2021 because of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Future event planning will occur on an on-going basis.

4. Community Gardening

S. Dotson, Sustainability Coordinator wanted to share with the commission a project that he is involved with the community centered around providing a frame for people to offer resources this growing season for people to take gardening in the community to the next level. One of the opportunities this effort being is to expanding community gardening into public spaces. A few sites are being looked at; one is the front lawn of the municipal building.

To go along with community gardening, S. Dotson brought up the idea of bringing back the Agricultural Advisory Committee which has been dormant for a few years. The current charge that the Ag Committee currently has its to preserve farmland, preserve agricultural production and support local food systems. S. Dotson mentioned that himself and S. Fillion have been looking to what a new charge could look like if the committee was brought back and hat incudes ideas aligned around maintaining some commons and utilizing the commons of the community to support itself and the food system that remains. He also sees this committee overseeing a revolving loan fund that would support farms and protect farmland. The commission discussed the idea of bringing back this committee as potential a subcommittee to the conservation commission. Different ideas were thrown around with what this committee would look like including its role in the community, how many members should be part of it and how a revolving loan could work.

E. Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.