

TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
April 9, 2019

Conservation Commission Members: Drew Adam, Jen Latham, Erin Rodgers, Marilyn Chiarello, Laurie Callahan (arrived 6:00 PM)

Staff: Sue Fillion

A. Call to Order

D. Adam called the meeting to order at 5:20 P.M.

B. Announcements

- Conservation Commissioners are invited to attend a Wood, Water, and Beer event that will highlight Brattleboro's water system and forestry on May 18. It is an invite only event and as such, Commissioners were asked to tell S. Fillion if they will attend as we need to avoid having a quorum of Commissioners attending so that it is not a public meeting.
- Rich Earth Institute is hosting a Party, Performance and Presentation event at Club Vermont in Putney on April 13 from 3-6.
- Common Ground for Climate Action will be held on April 14 from 2-5 at the Neighborhood Schoolhouse at Solar Hill
- An update was given on the tires in the wetland off Spring Tree Road

C. Approve Minutes of January 22, 2019 and February 26, 2019

J. Latham moved approval of the minutes of January 22 (as written) and February 26 (with typographic edits); seconded by M. Chiarello. Pass 4-0.

D. New Business

1. 2019 Association of Vermont Conservation Commission's Tiny Grant Application

The Commission reviewed the draft application and made some suggestion. It was agreed that there should be some funding for a kickoff event with an educational speaker.

2. Joint Regional Conservation Advocacy Groups Meeting

The Regional meeting will be on April 17 at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. Potluck. It is unclear if any members will attend. S. Fillion will reach out to Guilford to see if they want to show the knotweed videos.

3. Introduction to the ANR Atlas Watershed Delineation Tool

E. Rodgers demonstrated the type of information that can be viewed on the ANR Atlas. She noted that Biofinder shares the same data. She demonstrated the stream crossing data that is in the Fish and Wildlife layer. She explained that this can be used to help towns prioritize culverts that need to be replaced due to under sizing. She has worked with many towns to develop a quick culvert prioritization that is then included in the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This layer shows fish passage, not stormwater passage, and does not include private culverts.

E. Rodgers also showed the Stream Stats mapping tool from the USGS (streamstats.usgs.gov) This is the tool to use to determine sub-watersheds for the purpose of naming streams. S. Fillion advised that staff will identify the unnamed streams with watershed of 100 acres or more that are unnamed and bring this information to a future meeting.

E. Old Business

1. Japanese Knotweed 2019 Plan – West River Park

The Commission discussed the timing of the beginning of this work in relation to a possible Tiny Grant Award. It was agreed that the work should begin in May even though if awarded a grant, the funding is not available until June. Staff will work on a draft press release that will be reviewed at the April 30 meeting. A work session will be held at 5:00 P.M. on May 28 in the West River Park.

G. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.