



Brattleboro Planning Services

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TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES February 25, 2020

Conservation Commission Members: Drew Adam, Erin Rodgers, Laurie Callahan, Jesse Wagner, Marilyn Chiarello, and Ashlyn Bristle

Staff: Sue Fillion, Andrew Graminski

Guest: Stephen Dotson, Sustainability Coordinator

A. Call to Order

D. Adam called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

B. Announcements

D. Adams welcome new commissioner Ashlyn Bristle to the commission. Ashlyn has interests in conservation and agriculture in Brattleboro and owns the Rebop Farm in West Brattleboro. A. Graminski made an announcement that the Vermont Association of Conservation Commission has publicized this year 2020 tiny grant opportunities that the commission could potentially pursue if a project arises. Applications for the grant are due April 10, 2020.

C. Approve Minutes of January 28, 2020

E. Rogers made a motion to approve the January 28, 2020 minutes with minor edits. Motion was seconded by J. Wagner.

D. New Business

1. Earth Day Event at 250 Birge St

M. Chiarello gave a background on how this event was aspired and how she got involved with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) specifically with their soil tunnel and rain simulation displays. S. Fillion then talked about the ongoing brownfields project at 250 Birge St and how the site is currently owned by the Vermont River Conservancy (VRC) and there are plans for the Town to acquire the land from them. This event will be centered around natural resource advocacy and various organizations will be invited to the event.

D. Adams open up a conversation centered around the organizations that the commission thinks should be invited to this event. The following list of organizations was formed:

- Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Rich Earth Institute
- Edible Brattleboro
- Town of Brattleboro
- Vermont River Conservancy
- Connecticut River Conservancy
- Vermont Community Forest
- Agency of Natural Resource – Water Table Demonstration

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- Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance

Commissioners and staff will reach out to these organizations after planning staff gets permission from VRC that the event can be held at 250 Birge St. Along with the list of potential organization to be invited, there will be two guided walks at the site. One walk will be centered around invasive species found at the site and another will be about life in the Whetstone Brook. These guided walks will be scheduled at different times during the vent.

The event is planned for a tentative date of Saturday April 25, 2020 with a rain date of Sunday April 26, 2020. The event will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for both days. Parking will be provided on site at 25 Birge St. Commission discussed potential back up locations if the event will not be able to be held at 250 Birge St. Ideas included space at the Rich Earth Institute, Depot St, or West River Park.

Advertising for this event will start in the following weeks. Ideas for publicity included articles in the paper, a press release, flyers, post cards to neighbors close to the site, posting signs. The commission discussed hiring someone to do illustrations for a flyer/ or poster for the event. Commission decided that a press release with organizations attending should go out in early April, but the event will be advertised as soon possible. A small marketing subcommittee was formed to held lead these efforts.

Commission discussed having food trucks at the event, but there was consensus that having food trucks could run into logistical problems. A. Bristle brought up the idea of having music at the festival and that she would reach out to local music groups about potentially coming to the event. S. Fillion asked the commission what their thoughts were on about having a speaker come to the event. D. Adams said he would be okay with doing introductions and light MCing but that there should be a keynote speaker. A. Bristle had some suggestions and would reach out to those folks.

Commission agreed that it would be helpful to do a site visit to help with logistics sometime in early March. The commission agreed to meet on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioners and those interested in the meeting will meet at the gate at 250 Birge St.

E. Old Business

1. West River Park – Japanese Knotweed Clean-Up

Commission will discuss this topic at the March 24, 2020 meeting.

G. Adjourn

Next meeting will be held on March 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM at 250 Birge St.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.