



Brattleboro Planning Services

230 Main Street, Suite 202 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
Phone 802-251-8154 • www.brattleboro.org/planning

TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2020

Conservation Commission Members: Erin Rodgers, Jesse Wagner, Laurie Callahan, Marilyn Chiarello, and Fhar Miess

Staff: Andrew Graminski and Sue Fillion

Guest: Stephen Dotson and Kevin O'Brien

A. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:17 PM.

B. Announcements

Members gave introductions as the Conservation Commission has a new member, Art "Fhar" Miess. S. Dotson, Sustainability Coordinator made an announcement that the Vermont Land Trust and the State of Vermont's new Climate Forester will be coming down to this area on October 6 and late October, 2020 for site visits and to explain a project happening in northern Vermont regarding sequestration of carbon on public lands. S. Dotson asked if a few commissioners (2-3) were interested in attending these meetings to get an idea of similar projects could be conducted in Brattleboro. Both J. Wagner and F. Miess expressed interest in attending the October 6 site visit at the Retreat Farm.

A. Graminski made an announcement that Lynn Levine has started working on the interpretive signs for the Riverstone loop portion of the West River Trail.

C. New Business

1. Invasive Species Video(s) – Phototoxic Species

L. Callahan has been in communication with Jennifer Latham, a past Conservation Commissioner about making video(s) about phototoxic invasive species (Wild Chervil, Wild Parsnip and Hogweed). Jennifer has made videos for the commission before on Japanese Knotweed identification and management. Commissioner expressed their interest in creating more videos on invasive as last video that Jennifer made was a success and well made. Commissioners all agreed that they are on board for her to make these videos, which could be one or more. The videos will be on the lines of identifying these plants and how they are can be a public health concern. L. Callahan will get in touch with Jennifer about video logistics and if she will want any sort of stipend.

2. Japanese Stiltgrass – How to support local residents

The invasive species Japanese Stiltgrass has been identified by a resident on Crosby Street and has been spreading down towards Williams Street and even along portions of the Whetstone Brook. This species is still considered an early detection species in Brattleboro. The resident who has found it has been trying to control it and track where it has been spreading. L. Callahan says



Brattleboro Planning Services

230 Main Street, Suite 202 • Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
Phone 802-251-8154 • www.brattleboro.org/planning

that it seems it made mode of spreading is through seeds. L. Callahan asked how the conservation commission could help control the spread of this invasive species? S. Fillion said that it seems that some of the areas which this grass is growing is in the public right of ways. Kevin O'Brian, an AmeriCorps fellow who is working with the Town's Sustainability Coordinator expressed interested to map where the grass is located in town on the Public Right of Ways and then to see if the Department of Public Works could add those areas to there mowing list.

The resident of Crosby Street has expressed interest in coming to speak to the Conservation Commission. Commissioners said that that she should attend meeting in October. L. Callahan said before any mapping/inventory is conducted, she will reach out to Vermont Land trust to see if they have started to map these invasive in Brattleboro. L. Callahan will keep commissioners in the loop about what information she finds.

E. Old Business

1. West River Park – One last Japanese Knotweed Clean-up Session

Commissioners agreed on two dates to go out to the West River Park for one last cutting and management of Japanese knotweed. The dates are Saturday, October 17 and Monday October 19, 2020 at 10 AM. At these sessions, commission will discuss efforts for next year and make sure 50 ft markers are well marked.

F. Approve August 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

F. Miess made a motion to approve minutes with edits, seconded by m. Chiarello. Minutes were passed.

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.