

Conservation Committee Meeting

March 22, 2017 7:30-9:34 pm

Members present: Judy Rosovsky, Bob Low, Elizabeth Wright, Rick Barrett, Mary Houle

Public attendance: Brad Elliot, Wright Preston, Samantha Wolf, Amber Wolf, Lincoln Bressor

Green-Up Day As Green Up Day (May 6th, 2017), approaches, what is the procedure for picking up tossed needles during the clean up? The Town does have a policy in effect for such items identified. Judy will provide members of Commission with phone numbers, e-mail addresses and sign-up sheets for the pending Green-Up day

Friends of Winooski River Race and Ramble is June 4

Conservation related articles for Times Ink the Huntington person previously identified as a contributor is no longer available to author and submit articles. Other volunteers are needed.

Status of CES stormwater grant? CCRPC is going to create a stormwater plan for Richmond, and FOWR will be involved on a smaller scale.

Association for Lake Iroquois Milfoil control and water quality money request will be coming to the CC

Bank Stabilization for Winooski River adjacent to Volunteer Green Judy, Geoff Urbanik, Ann Smith, Karen Bates, Gretchen Alexander met to discuss the rip-rap request for the erosion parallel to Vol Green including the canoe launch access. Additionally, Chris Brunelle and Lincoln Bressor met to discuss same. Ordinarily, vegetation should be left in place and the river should be allowed to meander. However, to propose an option, Brunelle would not oppose a fix. Length of repair is about 145 feet.

Bob asked of Bressor, would the Town Manager authorize the repair without consulting the CC for input? Other significant input needed is the impact downstream if there is a fix to the current eroded area. Discussion of best practices for river stabilization; revetments (full logs cabled together) set in bank in tiers to hold bank. Lincoln Bressor indicated his openness to other options besides riprap.

Andrews Forest discussion Is there a need to inventory the property? Although there is a Current Use plan in effect as initiated by the Andrews family, it does not go into enough detail for a real management plan as will be necessary for the ownership, development and maintenance of the land for the Town. Development refers to establishing a trail network, restricting areas that might have sensitive plants, vernal pools, wildlife habitat.

Bob Heiser of VLT notified Chair of calendar sequence for purchase money for Andrew's land.

4/11 deadline for application for \$150k from VCHB with decision date 6/14

Open Space funding due in April

Federal Forestry Fund for \$250k ask in due in June

Dedicated Town money \$75k to maximum of \$125k when needed to complete purchase.

Once purchase is completed, what do we do? Look at the management plans established for Hinesburg, Bolton, and Waitsfield Town forests. How are their plans working for them?

Resources for us to consider:

County Forester Tapper

VYCC

Vermont Land Trust, Richmond Land Trust

Neighbors

Richmond Conservation Commission

Recreation Committee

Select Board

Jim Shallow

Aaron Worthy

Richard Miller

Reorganization of Conservation Committee following Town Meeting

Judy was re-elected to Chair and Bob agreed to accept Vice Chair.

Gillett Pond Bob Low recused himself and left the meeting

\$200k was requested of Consv Fund by the Gillett Pond dam replacement committee. Lou Borie wrote the application. The CC fund currently has \$263,000 and with the promise of up to \$125,000 for the purchase of the Andrew Forest land, the \$200k cannot be granted. Per estimates, the Consv Reserve Fund will grow by approximately \$44,000 in July of 2017 and another \$44,000 in July of 2018. Given the State design standards for this dam, \$650,000 will be necessary. Of the \$650,000, the need is for \$400,000 from private funding, \$150,000 from Richmond CRF and \$100,000 from Huntington for funding. The CC is inclined to support an amount lower than \$200,000 for the project.

A brief discussion ensued about how much money to retain in the CRF with reference to the upcoming Lake Iroquois and Friends of Gillett Pond requests. The Conservation Committee would like to consider smaller grant requests, too.