



**Town of Stowe
Conservation Commission
Monday June 10, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday June 10, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the Stowe Village Inn parking area.

Members in Attendance: Jacquie Mauer, Kay Barrett, Catherine Gott, Colleen McGovern, Phillip Branton, and Seb Sweatman. Staff in Attendance: Sarah McShane. Others in Attendance: Carolyn Lawrence, Grady Vigneau. Visitors Adam ____ & Grace ____ briefly attended the meeting.

Call to Order- J.Mauer called the meeting to order shortly after 5:30 PM.

Public Comments & Adjustments to the Agenda – None

Review Meeting Minutes [05/13/2024] On a motion by C.McGovern, seconded by P.Branton, the minutes of the prior meeting were approved unanimously.

Discuss- Opportunities to Reduce River Erosion

J.Mauer explained her concern with river erosion near the Quiet Path. She would like to focus on this project. Members discussed potential planting areas to dissipate the force of the water and evaluate areas upstream. S. McShane suggested adding the topic to the next meeting agenda for additional discussion. The Commission had additional discussion and shared ideas. At the next meeting, the Commission will review the proposal developed by Peter Danforth, conduct a site visit, and allow time for additional discussion. C.Gott asked to review the flood resiliency element of the Town Plan.

Sterling Forest Management Plan Update – Next Steps

S. McShane briefly updated the Commission on the status of the update to the Sterling Forest Management Plan; the survey has been distributed with a decent response. S. McShane will share the findings from the survey and the adjacent Page Forest Management Plan for the Commission's review. She estimated the Commission will still need to dedicate approximately 3-4 more meetings to the topic before finalizing recommendations. Commission members were encouraged to review the management plan and provide recommended factual comments to staff. The item will be placed on July agenda for additional discussion.

Friends of the Winooski- Water Quality Testing Project

S.McShane distributed sampling bottles and field information sheets. Members agreed to sample the assigned sites and drop off collected samples tomorrow morning. S.McShane explained that collected samples need to be dropped off in the red cooler at the rear entrance of the Town Office to be transported to Waterbury later in the day.

Stewardship Projects- Mayo Farm, Moscow Rec, Sterling Forest

S. McShane explained there are a few outstanding stewardship projects that need volunteers if anyone is interested in helping. There are a few remaining trees along the Quiet Path that need wire fencing wrapping, a small patch of knotweed in Sterling that needs watching/pulling, and the plantings at Moscow Rec Field should be monitored.

Review Stowe Trails Partnership (STP) Annual Maintenance Plan & Conduct Cady Hill Field Visit with STP

Commission members walked the proposed Stowe Village Inn/Cady Hill Forest trail connector with members of STP. The trail proposal was originally presented to the Commission earlier this year receiving a positive response from the Commission. Members walked the trail corridor over the municipal sewer line/Pallisades Park connecting into Cady Hill Forest. Following the site visit, STP agreed to update the trail proposal with additional details (i.e., trail tread details/stone armoring, identify wet areas, identify bridge location and dimensions, existing and proposed trail lengths, alternate trail lines, etc.) discussed during the site visit. The Commission will review and discuss during a later meeting with the intention of recommending approval to the Selectboard.

General Reports & Updates

None

Other Business

None

Next Meeting Date- 6/24/2024

The meeting adjourned shortly after 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director