



**Town of Stowe
Conservation Commission
Monday July 08, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday July 8, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room of the Stowe Town Office, followed by a site visit to Mayo Farm. Members in Attendance: Jacquie Mauer, Phillip Branton, Evan Freund, Catherine Gott, Colleen McGovern, Zach Lewis, and Seb Sweatman. Staff in Attendance: Sarah McShane. Others in Attendance: Peter Danforth, Carolyn Lawrence.

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

Public Comments & Adjustments to the Agenda – No public comments. No adjustments to the agenda.

Review Meeting Minutes [06/10/2024] On a motion by P.Branton, seconded by E.Freund, the minutes of the prior meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.

STP Stowe Village Inn Trail -Review & Finalize Recommendation. Carolyn Lawrence from Stowe Trails Partnership (STP) attended the meeting to answer any questions. Staff circulated a draft letter of recommendation for the Commission to consider. Members inquired about possible parking issues at the Stowe Village Inn and the potential need for 'no parking' signage. C.Lawrence indicated that there presently are ±1.91 miles of existing trail in Management Area #2. The proposed trail length within Management Area #2 is ±0.28; totaling ±2.19 of existing and proposed trails. Members discussed the parking pressures within the village and trailheads. Following discussion, P.Branton motioned to recommend approval of the trail as presented. C.Gott seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Staff will incorporate the final edits into the recommendation letter for the Chair signature and coordinate next steps.

Sterling Forest Management Plan Review Survey Responses. Members reviewed and discussed the responses to the Sterling Forest Management Plan survey. Members felt the comments were trending positive and some low hanging improvements the Commission might consider relate to improved signage. Members discussed how some comments received emphasized a desire for Sterling Forest not to turn into Cady Hill. Members discussed trail maintenance and trash/poop cans. Members discussed winter use and parking along the Sterling Gorge Road. Members will review and discuss possible revisions to the plan at subsequent meetings.

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.

General Reports & Updates

S.McShane updated the Commission on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and ANR's recent approval of winter motorized grooming at Cady Hill. The Commission will discuss the topics at a later meeting.

Other Business

None

Mayo Farm Quiet Path Site Visit

Peter Danforth from Lamoille County Conservation District attended the meeting. He described a potential riparian planting plan for the eroding streambank area near the Quiet Path. Members conducted a site visit to Mayo Farm to observe river erosion along the Quiet Path. Members will continue discussion at a later meeting.

Next Meeting Date- 7/22/2024

The meeting adjourned shortly after 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director