



Town of Stowe
Conservation Commission
Monday July 22, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday July 22, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room of the Stowe Town Office. Members in Attendance: Jacquie Mauer, Phillip Branton, Catherine Gott, Colleen McGovern, Zach Lewis, and Seb Sweatman. Staff in Attendance: Sarah McShane. Others in Attendance: 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 [07/08/2024] On a motion by C.Gott, seconded jointly by P.Branton and C.McGovern, the minutes of the prior meeting passed unanimously.

Sterling Forest Management Plan – Review Amendments. Commission members began to review the drafted amendments to the Sterling Forest Management Plan. S.Sweatman inquired about adding a land acknowledgement statement. Members discussed where such a statement might be located within the plan. S.McShane explained that former SLT Executive Director Kristen Sharpless had previously shared a statement that she and Chief Stevens prepared for an Indigenous People's Day event a few years ago. Members agreed that they would incorporate a land acknowledgement statement, similar to others that have been prepared, then seek input from Chief Stevens and others. Members suggested that the statement be located toward the beginning of the document. Members reviewed the plan and discussed possible amendments. Members discussed the main items that should be included in the update (based on community comments): signage, parking, a possible phase 4 timber project, and parking along the Sterling Gorge Road. Members noted the historic signage could be replaced and/or better maintained as well as new educational signage regarding the Forestry for the Birds project. Members suggested adding a chart with a column regarding trail maintenance. Members discussed monitoring the patch cuts for improved bird habitat. Staff McShane will incorporate the suggested amendments for further consideration by the Commission.

General Reports & Updates

J.Mauer shared feedback regarding the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding stormwater and resiliency. P.Branton commented on pavement and pervious pavers. S.McShane highlighted the upcoming Town Plan project. C.McGovern asked if Michael Snyder could possibly attend an upcoming meeting to further discuss Sterling Forest. Staff will inquire.

Other Business

None

Next Meeting Date- 8/12/2024. The meeting adjourned shortly after 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director