



**Town of Stowe**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**Monday August 27, 2024**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday August 27, 2024, at 5:30 pm in the Memorial Room of the Stowe Town Office. Members in Attendance: Jacquie Mauer, Phillip Branton, Colleen McGovern, Kay Barrett, Evan Freund, and Seb Sweatman. Staff in Attendance: Sarah McShane. Others in Attendance: None.

**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 [08/12/2024]** J.Mauer requested that the prior meeting minutes be amended to include “continue to explore how we share information with the public” when discussing permeable pavement and bear proof dumpsters. S.McShane made the suggested modification. On a motion by K.Barrett, seconded by C.McGovern, the amended minutes of the prior meeting passed unanimously.

**Brainstorm Session- Develop Monthly Calendar for Educational Activities & Topics.** Members discussed opportunities to inform the public on a variety of educational topics throughout the year. Ideas mentioned included water quality, no mow mow, leave the leaves and others. Members also discussed developing an annual/routine maintenance/stewardship plan for the municipally owned conserved properties. Informational materials and routine maintenance/stewardship activities will be developed and compiled overtime. A standing agenda item will be placed on the first meeting agenda of each month for members to discuss and review educational materials/posts. Members discussed possibly hosting a speaker and topics that may be of interest to the community. K.Barrett agreed to reach out to the new Executive Director of the Stowe Land Trust. E. Freund agreed to contact a colleague that works for the State of Vermont in forest management to see if he may be interested in presenting.

**Sterling Forest Management Plan – Review Recommended Amendments.** S.McShane provided an overview of the proposed amendments that have been incorporated into the plan. Members discussed Section 4.4. regarding maintenance of the historic sites and the condition of the informational signs. Staff will modify Section 4.4 to include a recommendation that the existing condition of the historic sites and signs be monitored annually by the Conservation Commission and repair/maintained/replaced as needed. Members discussed Section 1.3 regarding parking area signage and winter parking issues along Sterling Gorge Road. Members agreed to work with Catamount Trail Association to encourage carpooling and effective parking, as well as monitor the situation by communicating with impacting property owners. Language reflecting these actions will be added to the plan. Staff will also incorporate figure # and descriptions. Members discussed the differences between a land management plan and a forest management plan. The Sterling Forest Management Plan currently under review is a land management plan, should a fourth phase timber project be developed, it would be done so in consultation with a licensed forester and include a detailed Forest Management Plan.

**Discuss- Solicit Student Representative for Upcoming School Year.** Members discussed opportunities to work with the school and find another student representative for the upcoming school year.

**General Reports & Updates**

Stowe Land Trust Annual meeting will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. S.McShane and J.Mauer will be attending. The VT Conservation Commissions Summit is September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Business**

None

Next Meeting Date- 9/9/2024. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director