

WCC Meeting Minutes
2/11/14 Thatcher Brook Library 7:00pm

Present: Allan Thompson, Aric Brown, Jan Brown, Mike Hedges, Steve Hagenbuch, Matt Larson, Joan Beard. **Guests:** Jackie Casino and Dan Currier CVRPC

- Steve H. reviewed minutes of Jan 14, 2014 All voted in favor of accepting the minutes.
- **Central Vermont Forest Stewardship Planning** <http://centralvtplanning.org/programs/forest-stewardship>
 - Jackie Casino and Dan Currier from CV Regional Planning did a pp presentation reviewing the history of the regional resource plan, articulating its goal of sustaining long term healthy forests while being sensitive to VT's economic needs.
 - Methodology using quantitative analysis is intended to increase scale and pace of sustainable management of private, municipal and regional forest lands in VT:
 - Identify- inventory and assess forest resources
 - Support & enhance landowners in forest stewardship
 - Develop strategies to “keep forests as forests” such as connectivity of parcels
 - CVRPC will work with a Steering Committee to complete these objectives and to help guide planning
 - CVRPC had developed an online web map to collect citizen feedback. Citizens can use this map to record the forest resources and products in their towns. Jackie and Dan asked committee members for input on local forest products businesses such as Christmas tree farms (growing or selling), town forests, loggers, foresters, and recreational resources such as skiing, hiking and biking trails.
 - Committee members articulated a need for more comprehensive information on the maps such as wildlife habitat connectivity using the RT 100 corridor crossing as an example. Mike H. will supply Jackie and Dan with the wildlife species map WCC developed to show local landowners which species are prevalent in the region. Jackie and Dan felt that it would be possible to include this type of information, with citizen input, on the online CVRPC web map.
 - Allen T. asked how CVRPC was qualifying and quantifying data on density, threats, development, and stand level inventories. Presenters answered that ANR has maps and Forest & Parks was developing a forest metric map for the web but it was a long way from full coverage.
- **Byway Panel Update**
 - Mike H. reviewed the latest panels with the committee. The committee was pleased with the progress.
- **Friends of the Bobolink**
 - Allen T. reported that he has been meeting with Michael Sweatman of Stowe who has good information on where Bobolinks are located in the Waterbury/Stowe area. Allen will contact Michael and ask for use of his Waterbury maps and info.
 - The committee brainstormed ways to engage and involve Waterbury area citizens in conservation issues using the Bobolink as a starting point:
 - Organize Waterbury area citizen inventory of Bobolinks/ habitat
 - “Adopt a Highway” model where citizens care for a given public area/trail/habitat

- Allen T -told of a conservation project he once saw where trees were tagged with the names of people who had contributed to saving them
 - Create an inventory of Waterbury area properties which are prime targets for conservation. Contact with landowners/users is key to developing interest in conservation
 - Education programs on flora/fauna promote community interest and involvement-Expand educational programs to schools.
 - Suggested future speakers: Jim Andrews- Salisbury Conservation Commission, Steve Faccio- wildlife biologist- VT Center for Eco Studies, Ros Renfrew- VT Center for Eco Studies, Noah Perlant- grad student UVM on bird inventory.
- Committee will pursue Bobolink inventory/education in Waterbury beginning with the **Leap Energy Fair**- Saturday, April 5th, 2013 9 AM - 3 PM Crossett Brook Middle School-Jane B will head up organization of exhibit with materials used in previous exhibits. Further discussion at March meeting.
- Committee's goal is the inventory and protection of natural resources through educating and engaging landowners/area citizens in the understanding and appreciation of those resources
- **Wallace Farm Brainstorm**
 - Allen T gave an overview of the Wallace Farm situation. Rosina Wallace has grazed her cows on 30 acres of land, belonging to a neighbor, which is in danger of being developed. This acreage is vital to continuing her dairy operation. Although VT Land Trust has been interested in conserving the whole farm and with it purchasing the 30 acres, she has not seen this as a viable solution.
 - Lisa Scagliotti is putting together a working group to discuss possible solutions. Allen T will continue to monitor this.
 - Only three working farms left in Waterbury - Wallace, Davis and Woodard. Committee should educate itself about conservation possibilities. George Woodard would be easy to approach and interesting to have a discussion with. Matt L is a neighbor and will look for an appropriate time to do this.
 - Discussion on how to educate local landowners on preserving their land through use of conservation funds.

Looking ahead:

- March 4 -Town Meeting
- March 11-WCC meeting
- April 5- Energy Fair – decide on display
- May ?-Steve H presentation on forest birds
- June?- Walk about with Steve H on forest birds
- Fall ?- Wildlife crossing presentation in conjunction with Convention/Symposium being held in Burlington

Minutes submitted by Joan Beard
March 11, 2014