

Waterbury Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes – 1/19/16 (Approved 2/16/16)

Present: Allan Thompson, Mike Hedges, Joan Beard, Heather O’Wril, Steve Hagenbuch

Shutesville Hill Update

- Bob Heiser, of Vermont Land Trust, is applying to Cox Trust for funding around development of a long-term conservation strategy for the Shutesville Hill area.
- WCC has been asked to provide a letter of support for the application. WCC is willing to provide but will wait until after next meeting of the Shutesville Hill group (VLT, SLT, TNC, and WCC) to get specifics before drafting. WCC will inform Steve Lotspeich of our intent to write letter.

Cell Tower Update

- Recent activity
 - Allan and Steve presented the issue to Stowe Conservation Commission (Dec. 16, 2015)
 - ANR came out with supplemental comments (Dec. 30, 2015)
 - Allan attended Waterbury Select Board meeting and provide supplemental comments from WCC (Jan. 4, 2016)
 - Joan attended Stowe Select Board meeting to listen to discussion on issue (Jan. 11, 2016)
- Town of Waterbury has hired Laura Farrell to provide expert comments on impacts of proposed project to wildlife habitat block/travel corridor
- End of January is deadline for next round of comments, including Laura’s. Then “next item” will be scheduled. Unclear as to what this may be, possibly a hearing or more comments.
- It is noted that North Hill is not specifically identified as a valuable scenic resource in our town plan. WCC feels there needs to be a process for being able to define areas as valuable scenic resources. Could and should WCC be part of this process?

Northern Woodlands Magazine Opportunities

- As part of WCC community outreach efforts WCC inquired about possibility of publishing natural events calendar from Northern Woodlands magazine as a regular feature in the Waterbury Record.
- Northern Woodlands magazine is open to this idea and requests a draft of what we want to do be shared with them prior to final approval. Steve to run a mockup to share with WCC first, then Northern Woodlands.
- Northern Woodlands magazine also proposed the idea of sharing their weekly online column “The Outside Story” with the Waterbury Record. This is free of charge to the paper. No specific decision was made about whether to pursue this or not.

Development Review Board

- Mike was looking for diagrams showing examples for smart high-elevation development but was not able to find any. Asked if anyone knew where this information may be gotten from. No one else knew. Something to look into for future reference.

Strategic Planning

- Allan presented a nice summary matrix of actions to date
- Request Melissa Levy provide examples of how other towns have taken the results of their strategic planning exercises and turned that into a well-formatted document. Allan will contact Melissa.
- Need to flesh out more details on actions. Current feeling is that they are too broad. Each WCC member was assigned an action to delve into further. Decide what actions will truly help achieve goals. This may entail combining, adding, or removing some actions from the matrix.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Hagenbuch
February 1, 2016