

**Waterbury Conservation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday 3/21/2017
7pm Conference Room, Waterbury Municipal Building**

Present: Allan Thompson, Chair; Mike Hedges, Nick Waringa, Joan Beard

Guest: Katrina Van Tyne

1. **Introductions-** Katrina Van Tyne is interested in joining the Conservation Commission. She has lived in Waterbury for 9 years and is a web strategist at UVM Medical Center. She would be a welcomed addition. Allan directed her to write to the Select Board expressing her interest.
2. **Review and approve agenda-** Will approve February minutes at next meeting
3. **Appoint minute taker-** Joan Beard
4. **Roundtable updates**
 - a. Allan reported that **Steve Hagenbuch and Caitrin Maloney from Stowe Land Trust will be meeting with the Waterbury Water Commissioners** about conserving or protecting the Waterworks Property which is owned by Waterbury but is in Stowe and is adjacent to the vital Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor.
 - b. Joan and Allan attended **Shutesville Hill Wildlife Crossing group meeting**. Representatives from Stowe Land Trust, Town of Stowe, Stowe Conservation Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Waterbury Conservation Commission and Vermont Land Trust were in attendance. Discussions continue around how to conserve this crossing.
5. **Spring-summer presentations**
 - a. Kent McFarland- **Allan has contacted Kent McFarland about doing a training on Vermont Atlas of Wildlife website which can be used by the public to record sightings of birds, mammals, reptiles, trees, etc.** Kent is a Conservation Biologist from the Vermont Center for Eco Studies. The goal would be to establish a strong Waterbury/Stowe regional presence on the website. **Suggested date is June 8 at the GMC barn.** Stowe Land Trust is interested in sharing organizational responsibilities as part of the **Shutesville Hill Wildlife Series**. Will refine responsibilities at April meeting.
 - b. **June 10, 7:30-9:30am Annual Conservation Commission Bird Walk on Sweet Farm Road at Waterworks.** Stowe Land Trust is interested in being part of this. Questions: Do we need to have a rsvp? Can this event get too large? Who can act as guides? Steve, Allan, Zach KW? Answer questions and refine responsibilities at April meeting when Steve H is present.
 - c. **Jonathan Way-Coyote Specialist** – Allan suggested that there is a possibility we could get Jon Way to speak. Group discussed the pros and cons of coyote protection vs worries about predation. Would probably attract a large varied audience. Available in July or August. No decision made. Discuss further at April meeting.
6. **Natural Resources inventory items and process- WCC needs to identify what is worth saving:**
 - a. How do we evaluate? Use tested methodology.
 - b. Methods to determine value? What do other CC's do? Zoning and tax?
 - c. Areas of interest to the community. - town survey? Areas of interest to specialists-State of Vermont Natural Resources Inventory

- i. Rare and endangered species (flora and fauna)
- ii. Deer yards
- iii. Vernal pools
- iv. View sheds
- v. Waterways and water sources
- vi. Wildlife Corridors
- vii. Unique to the Region
- viii. Commercial interests- farming, forestry, sugaring
- ix. Recreational interests- trails (ski and bike), hikes and climbs, swimming, boating, fishing

Other: Mike reported that **Green Mt Byways** is now allowing private business to use the website for promotions with links to business. The Waterbury to Stowe Byway is hoping to expand to Morrystown and Hyde Park soon, and is also looking at Johnson and Cambridge.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 7pm, Waterbury Municipal Building

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Beard