



Waterbury Conservation Commission

Notes of Aug 9, 2022 discussion

This was not an official meeting of the Commission as there was no quorum

In person

Meeting Notes

Commission attendees: Billy Vigdor, Kelsey Applegate, Allan Thompson

Commissioner Absence: Joan Beard, Linda Gilpin, Tracy Sweeney, Steve Hagenbuch

Public: none

- Meeting convened 6:00 pm
- Public Comments: None
- Review, prioritize and modify agenda
 - Kelsey asked to discuss traffic on Stowe Street
- Review and approve prior meeting minutes
 - A quorum was not present, therefore minutes were not approved.
- Discuss Priorities for the Community Values Mapping
 - Meeting with Jens Hilke from VT Fish and Wildlife Sep 6, 2022 to help us design inventory.
 - Each member present discussed their ideas, and though Joan was not present she sent her ideas and they were discussed.
 - Allan
 - Identify places and spaces to conserve, and understand their characteristics
 - For the areas we use (e.g. for forestry and farming), how do we use them wisely?
 - Identify non-spatial abstract values such as clean air, clean water, healthy deer herds
 - Public lands such as Mt. Mansfield and CC Putnam State Forests will be up for a forest management plan. Prepare for public comment by assessing values
 - Assess what people want or need to learn about
 - Kelsey
 - Develop a strategy based on public opinion about what we want our town to be in 100 years



- What trends will pose future conservation problems? Examples: floods, droughts, and wildfires caused by climate change, air quality, water quality, increasing population, development
- What solutions are available to us now?
- Who is responsible for enacting those solutions?
- Joan
 - Inventory Vistas, roads and ridgelines, cultural buildings (e.g. churches, meeting halls, barns, historic homes or buildings)
 - Inventory wildlife and woodlands
 - How do we integrate Winooski River into more town activities?
 - Inventory, conserve and develop trails for walking and biking.
 - Economic needs balanced with conservation needs.
 - How to raise funds to conserve.
 - Should we integrate WCC into other municipal organizations including DRB and Select Board?
- Billy
 - Demographics information.
 - What do we want Waterbury to be:
 - Recreation Hub
 - Beer Hub
 - More, Others?
 - Location of Key wildlife, wildlife corridors and habitat, riparian buffers
 - Replicate the old Town Survey to identify changes
 - Definition of Conservation
 - Any building
 - Motorized vehicles
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Motorized recreation
 - Non-motorized recreation
 - Best tool to protect resources
 - Conservation (legal protections, eg easements, deed restrictions)
 - Zoning
 - Free market
 - Would you agree to make it more difficult to get a zoning permit in an area you want to conserve? Would you accept that on your land?
 - Vistas
 - Identify the vistas you want to preserve in Waterbury?
 - Can we quantify it?
 - Attributes and approaches to conserving land
 - Sacrifices to conserve land



- Economic incentives to conserve land
 - Locations for upgraded and new development (and do they overlap with key wildlife, corridors and habitat)
 - Identify cultural, historic and recreation resources
 - Location and investment in renewable energy (solar, wind, hydrogen)
 - Affordable housing, needs and locations (any conflict with economic development and conservation?)
 - Support for and use of bicycling and bike commuting
 - Support for and use of public transportation (local and commuting)
 - Preservation and use of the key waterways: Rez, Winooski, Thatcher and Graves Brook (others). Riparian buffers?
 - Expanding sewer and water
 - Economic growth, What, how and where (see conflicts questions)
 - Light/heaving industry
 - Healthcare
 - Senior residences
 - Warehousing
 - Retail
 - Entertainment and theater
 - Would you be willing to support zoning regulations that reduces your ability to develop your property if it protects [natural resource]
 - Would you pay more taxes to fund a conservation fund and conservation projects?
 - How likely are you to subdivide your property? Would you accept a payment not to subdivide the property? How much?
 - WCC Role
- Shuttesville Partnership Report and Co-Sponsorship of Carbon Forest Program
 - Discussed potential venues for the Carbon Forest Program presentation in October or November
 - Report on Planning Commission Meeting and Recreation Steering Committee Update
 - Billy spoke at a recent Planning Commission Meeting and explained that the Conservation Commission wants to be more active and less siloed and fulfill our role of offering conservation expertise
 - The Hope Davie steering committee is putting together a natural resources inventory in the parks, and no WCC or other conservation stakeholder was present or invited
 - The Steering Committee is conducting a walk in the park Aug 25
 - September 13 Meeting



- The Conservation Commission discussed the need for a regular meeting after the Special Community Values Mapping Meeting

- Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Applegate October 7, 2022