

**Conservation Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2017**

Present: Cedric Alexander, Ken Denton, Chris Duff, Gary Gulka

Next Meeting: **May 8, 2017, 7:00 PM**

Agenda approved with no changes

January 23 minutes approved without changes.

Public Comment - none

Conservation Speaker Series Planning

Jason Schafer, of Lyndon State College Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences has agreed to do a presentation later this spring on various aspects of meteorology, including citizen weather monitoring, weather trends and climate change.

Alan Thompson, Fish & Wildlife Biologist for our area will be contacted about doing a presentation on improving wildlife habitat for landowners.

Other possible speakers/topics:

- Pollinators - need to look for a possible speaker
- Forest Health - contact County Forester
- Stephen Long - Hurricanes
- Audubon - improving habitat for song birds
- Status/health of upper Winooski River - various members of the Winooski Headwaters Project

We agreed that we should coordinate more with the Marshfield Conservation Commission which is doing similar public presentations.

Gary is planning to set up a meeting later this spring with UVM naturalist and faculty member Walter Polman and various community members to discuss and gauge interest in the PLACE Program, where there are various public presentations on the town's physical landscape, cultural landscape, and ecological landscape - all to develop a stronger sense of place and ownership that can lead to greater interest in sustaining cultural and natural heritage.

Gary has contacted Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation to see if a meeting can be arranged to discuss status and future plans for park development. So far there has been no response.

Public Access to the Winooski River

A letter was sent about two weeks ago to owners of a 13 acre parcel in the village (adjacent to Rec fields) to inquire of their interest in selling the property to create public access to the Winooski. There has been no response yet.

Green Up Day

Green Up Day is May 8. Gary will make arrangements for Green Up trash collection. There will be no residential tire collection since tires are now taken at the recycling center for a fee. Any Green Up tires collected along the roads will be consolidated at the recycling center and arrangements will be made to transport and recycle these with the recycling center's tires.

It was agreed that Conservation Committee members will make periodic postings to Front Porch Forum as a reminder of Green Up day.

Green Up Day collection of trash will be the usual hours of 9 am to 2 pm.

Winooski River Projects

There will be summer water quality sampling conducted by the Winooski Headwaters Project starting in late June and running to early September.

The Friends of the Winooski is planning to sponsor a regional workshop on driveway maintenance and erosion prevention techniques for homeowners. They have done these workshops in other areas and there has been a lot of interest.

No updates on Sawmill Dam removal, however, the Town is still moving forward on securing necessary funding and approvals.

Submitted by Gary Gulka 3/17/17