

DRAFT MINUTES
HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 16, 2019

Present: Ben Pougner, Norma Wiesen, Nancy Kellogg, Judith Ruskin, Nicole Davignon, Judy Bellairs

Absent: Rachel Kane, Ken Davis, Jerry Schneider, Renaud Demers

Minutes of the previous meeting approved unanimously.

Support for setting up a google group to make e-mails more convenient. Town Clerk advises that it can be used for communication only, not for decision-making.

Potential speakers: Rachel Smolker (Biowatch) on chestnut trees--perhaps a panel discussion in partnership with the Library; Jens Hawkins-Hilke (VT conservation planning biologist)

Michael Lew-Smith will be invited to speak to the Commission about natural resource inventories at the September 17, 2019 meeting.

Norma Wiesen spoke with Eleanor Osborn (Craftsbury Conservation Commission) Eric Remick (Selectboard Chair) and Kristen Leahy (Zoning Administrator) and submitted notes on those meetings. We need a place in the Memorial Building to put background/resource documents for the Commission to use in doing its work. These documents could be available for the public to review on site.

Discussion of forest planning. There is no forest plan for Hardwick. There is support from the Commission for developing one and the idea of having a speaker on the topic.

Discussion of wetlands in Hardwick. According to the Zoning Administrator, there are wetlands in Hardwick that aren't mapped. There is support from the Commission in getting the wetlands mapped in order to better protect them from development. We could ask Michael Lew-Smith about this issue at our September meeting.

Discussion of the web site and how to update it. Ben will remove outdated posts and will add links to helpful documents. We could put a list of the documents in the Commission's resource library on the web site. Commission members should feel free to send Ben information to be posted on the web site.

There was considerable interest in the environmental impacts and future of the Hardwick Dam. This is an issue that the Commission would need thoroughly study with the possibility of developing some recommendations.

Discussion of promoting mowing schedules to discourage invasive species and encouraging

pollinators. We need to do more research on this.

Discussion of setting up issue subcommittees. It was decided to tentatively establish the following:

Tree Subcommittee: Rachel, Judith, Ben, Norma, Judy

River Subcommittee: Rachel, Renaud, Ben, Nicole

Mapping/Inventory Committee: Nicole, Judy

These subcommittees could make agendas available to all members of the Commission so that anyone who had an interest could attend their meetings.

It was decided to have an outing for Commission members to view environmental features on Ben's property on Sunday, July 21 at 1 p.m.

Action items:

Norma: talk to Town Clerk about a repository for background/resource documents

Next meeting: August 20, 2019