

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES, DECEMBER 17, 2019 MEETING

Present: Ben Pougner, Judith Ruskin, Nicole Davignon, Rachel Kane, Renaud Demers, Ken Davis, Judy Bellairs

Absent: Jerry Schneider, Norma Wiesen

Guest: Nancy Kellogg

The agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

By-law discussion. Motion by Judith seconded by Rachel to change the number of members to a range of 5 to 9. Passed. Motion by Rachel seconded by Ben to change the percentage of attendance by members at meetings from 75% to 60%. Passed. Motion by Rachel seconded by Ben to accept the proposed by-laws as amended. Passed.

Hazen Union forest planning. Rachel attended the Trails Committee meeting and they are interested in cooperating on a management plan. A Hazen Union teacher is working on a plan to plant trees. The Tech Center has potential as a meeting place for events.

Speakers. Judy contacted Jens Hilke by e-mail but there has been no response as yet. Judith will contact Rachel Smolker about the potential of giving a talk.

Lamoille River remediation. Rachel contacted the state and was told that dealing with the erosion near Highway 16 is state highway department business. The person she spoke to said that they would pass on our concerns to the proper person.

Tree Committee. Rachel and Jerry talked to the Town Manager about planting street trees on private or town property. They asked about the land near the wastewater plant and were told that that area might be developed for parking or the Yellow Barn project. The Commission could consider advising on tree planting when the area is developed. As far as street trees, no one has a map showing where the sewer lines run to the houses. Discussion of crabapple trees along Lamoille. Can we offer advice about maintenance such as higher mowing, etc.?

We can get grants for planning. Matching grant applications are due by mid-January. We need to figure out who can develop a plan for us. Rachel will try to work on a grant with Jerry. We can try to get copies of successful planning grants to get an idea of what to put in the grant. The Town may have a master plan for street trees from about 20 years ago; we should try to get a copy of it.

The Commission agreed to asking for a \$1000 grant to fund development of a plan to re-green Hardwick.

Repository for Commission materials. It was suggested that the Library could provide two

drawers to store our materials and that it would also be possible to lend books or maps that we donate. Nicole will follow up with Lisa at the library.

Ben discussed various forest management ideas and handed out information. It was suggested that he follow up on how the Town Forest is managed and if designating an area for a demonstration forest is possible.

Action items:

Judith: Contact Rachel Smolker

Rachel and Jerry: Work on planning grant

Ben: Find out how/if Town Forest is managed

Nicole: Follow up with librarian about storage space for materials

Judy: Print form for sign-in to compile volunteer hours; get info on account balance; follow-up with Jens Hilke

Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: January 21, 2020