

**HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES (draft)**

Monday, May 8 @ 5:00PM @ Memorial Building

Present: Ken Davis, Geoff Fehrs, Kathy Hemmens, Rachel Kane, Ben Pougner, Erin Rosenthal, Jerry Schneider, Norma Wiesen
Judy Bellairs, Volunteer

Emily Finnegan (Caledonia County Conservation District), Staci Pomeroy (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation) Guests

Absent: Lucy Zendzian

1. Call to order 5:05 pm

2. Minutes of April 10, 2023 meeting approved

3. Presentation by Emily Finnegan and Staci Pomeroy (Caledonia County Conservation District, VT ANR) about future of Jackson Dam and available resources

Summary: 1. Jackson Dam is in “poor” condition (per 2019 inspection report)

2. Options for the future of the dam:

- A. Repair dam
- B. Reconfigure dam
- C. Remove dam
- D. Do nothing

3. Emily and Staci suggested the HCC might be interested in speaking with the Selectboard about a feasibility study to look at the pros and cons of each of the above options.

4. Currently, funds are available through State grants and other sources to conduct such a study at no cost to the Town. Such a process would likely mean writing the grant in fall 2023 and completing the study by early 2025. Emily Finnegan could lead this work (with as much input as the Town wanted to have).

5. For Towns that decide on a dam removal project, funds are currently available.

4. Final plans: NRI Kick-off Event: Wed, May 17 at 7:00 at Mem Bldg

NORMA: Send blurb to **ERIN** for radio ads

JERRY: Get key and projector during business hours

Wednesday

Communicate with Matt about timing to allow practice with projector

BEN/JERRY: Set up space

NORMA: Markers / hot&cold cups / paper plates/ tablecloths/
Sign-up sheets/ Name tags

ERIN/RACHEL: Food/drinks **GEOFF/JERRY/NORMA**

Volunteers (cookies)

BEN: Promotional handout – Spring Festival

KATHY: Introduce Matt and begin meeting

ALL: Clean-up

5. Land-owner permissions for NRI

GEOFF supplied everyone with a “users’ guide” to help us approach landowners with a consistent message when we ask for NRI site visit permission

RACHEL emailed members Matt’s list of properties he would like to visit.

Discussion of next steps. More work needed on a plan.

6. Final Plans: Spring Festival: Sat, May 27 at Atkins Field

RACHEL: Table/Tablecloth/ 50-50 tickets & jar/ free seeds & basket

BEN: Seedlings/ flyers

JERRY/KATHY: 50-50 tickets at parade

KEN: Informational flyers for table

NORMA: Poster for table

Timeline for set up?? Manning table??

7. Summer events report

ERIN/RACHEL: No success in scheduling a kids’ fishing event

8. Adjourn: 6:45 pm

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**Next regular meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023 @ 5:00 @
Memorial Bldg**

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary