

Town of
Hardwick
Hardwick, VT 05843

**HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

June 10, 2024 @ 5:00pm Memorial Building

Present: Tyler Buswell, Erik Erbes, Lesa Cathcart, Kathy Hemmens, Ben Pougner, Norma Wiesen, Lucy Zendzian

Absent: Ken Davis, Rachel Kane

Guest: Kristen Leahy, Hardwick Zoning Administrator

1. Meeting called to order at 5:05pm.
2. **Erik Erbes** welcomed as a new HCC member
3. **Kristen** described the breadth of recovery work to be done in the Town resulting from the July 2023 flood. She asked if the HCC would be interested in participating in one or more projects. She invited HCC members to attend a June 21 meeting to get more information and then give her a response. Details on the meeting follow:

WHAT: Hardwick Flood Recovery Work Meeting

WHO: Staci Pomeroy (Dept. of Environmental Conservation-Rivers Scientist)

Sacha Pealor (DEC-Floodplain Management)

Emily Finnegan (Caledonia County NRCD-District Manager)

Hardwick Town Officials

WHERE: Inn by the River site (flood-destroyed motel)

WHEN: Friday, June 21 at 8:00AM

Related discussion:

Previously, members had talked of riparian planting

Ben has 150 tree seedlings left from Springfest that might be used for flood mitigation

Erik reported that plants may also be available through North Branch Nature Center

4. Minutes of May 13, 2024 approved

5. **Springfest** follow-up and suggestions

- a. Try vegetable or flower “starts” instead of tree seedlings for the “by donation” fund-raiser
- b. Advertise 50/50 tickets early on FPF

6. **Event planning**

- a. **Ben** will finalize plans for 2 Nature Walks with Matt Peters. Suggested sites: Ben’s house and nearby cedar swamp/ Tuttle Pond
- b. **Ben** will also ask Matt about coming to a meeting to help us better understand the implications of the Ecological Inventory report for our work and Town planning
- c. **Lucy** will contact Jonathon Shapiro to schedule a tracking event
- d. **Lucy** will contact Hannah Phillips, Agency of Natural Resources, State Lands Program Manager about presenting a public meeting to learn about Vermont’s 30x30 Conservation Law
- e. **Lesia** suggested HCC advertise activities in the Northeast Kingdom tourist flyer

7. **Election of officers**

- a. Members reviewed by-laws in preparation for election of officers at the July meeting

8. **Retreat for long-term planning**

- a. **Norma** offered to host a planning session late Oct/early Nov

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

**Next regular meeting: Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 5:00pm
@ Memorial Bldg.**

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary