

**Town of Hardwick  
Hardwick, VT 05843**

**Hardwick Conservation Commission Meeting  
Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00pm at the Hardwick Memorial  
Building**

**NOTE:** Prior to the meeting, Jan Mueller, Hardwick Community Development Consultant, discussed the status of the tree planting project undertaken by the Hardwick Downtown Partnership. Property owners within the designated Downtown have been notified of the project and invited to participate. Advertising for a contractor to undertake the work is the next step. Mueller will keep the Commission aware of developments, as the Commission has indicated its desire to help.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Lesa Cathcart, Kathy Hemmens, Rachel Kane, Ben Pougner, Norma Wiesen, Lucy Zendzian

**Guests:** Kristen Leahy (Hardwick Zoning and Floodplain Administrator), Chris Steel (Greensboro Conservation Commission Chair)

**Absent:** Tyler Buswell, Ken Davis

- I.** Meeting called to order at 5:10
- II.** Minutes of Nov. 11, 2024, approved unanimously
- III.** **Treasurer Kathy Hemmens'** report:  
Budget balance as of December 31, 2024.....\$3246.00
- IV.** Vote to renew membership in the Vermont Assoc. of Conservation Commissions approved unanimously

- V. Chris Steel** (Chair, Greensboro Conservation Commission) described recent activities/projects of the GCC. Included were: mapping trails, planting pollinator beds, eliminating invasive plants, citizen “adoption” of culverts, 3 guided bird walks, public presentations at the HCA, and watershed protection work.
- VI. Kristen Leahy** (Hardwick Zoning and Floodplain Administrator) reported that there are approx. 20 sites in Hardwick being evaluated for flood mitigation work. Federal funding will be available. Kristen asked if the HCC were interested in helping with plantings, etc. for some of these sites. The consensus was ‘yes’. Kristen will bring specific information as it becomes available.
- VII. Norma Wiesen** reported on the initial Jackson Dam Study Committee Meeting, Dec. 19, 2024. (See attached notes)
- VIII.** The meeting concluded with members supplying ideas/topics for planning our 2025 work. These will be the raw material for a special Planning Meeting. The date, time and venue TBD.
- IX.** Meeting adjourned.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5:00 at the Memorial Bldg.**

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary

## **Jackson Dam Study Committee Meeting**

Dec. 19, 2024 9:00am Memorial Bldg.

Present: **Emily Finnegan**, Manager, Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District

**Renaud Demers**, Hardwick Electric Department

**Dave Gross**, Planning Commission

**Danny Hale**, Selectboard

**Kristen Leahy**, Zoning and Floodplain Administrator

**Norma Wiesen**, Conservation Commission

Notes:

The group met with Emily Finnegan who outlined a Dam Removal Feasibility study for Jackson Dam that could be funded (\$25,000) through her agency. She noted that a large project to specifically study the flooding issue in the Lamoille River basin is already committed.

This feasibility study would be specific to Hardwick's Jackson Dam and include both the positive and negative effects of dam removal, looking at economic, environmental, agricultural and recreational impacts.

The study would begin in the spring of 2025 and be completed late in the year. The engineering firm would bring its findings to this committee and then to a public meeting of the Town. All residents would have access to their report.

The committee agreed that such a study would provide the Town valuable information to make good decisions about the future of Jackson Dam.

The committee will meet with the engineers this spring to agree about the parameters of the study.

Norma Wiesen