

**Town of Hardwick
Hardwick, VT 05843**

**HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 10, 2025 @ Memorial Building**

Present: Tyler Buswell, Lesa Cathcart, Kathy Hemmens, Rachel Kane, Norma Wiesen, Lucy Zendzian

Absent: Ken Davis, Ben Pougner

Guests: Kristen Leahy, Ada Marotzke

Note: Prior to the regular meeting, Jan Mueller, Executive Director of the Hardwick Downtown Partnership, reported that the HDP is working through the process of hiring a contractor to do the tree planting project. (HCC has agreed to help with this project.)

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00PM.
2. Minutes for January 13, 2025 were approved. Minutes for February 10, 2025 were amended and approved.
3. **Kristen Leahy**, Zoning and Floodplain Administrator, asked for a letter of support for a grant sought from Vermont Emergency Management for a flood mitigation project on the area from Hays' Service Station to the Cottage Street bridge. A motion by **Kathy** to write a letter of support passed unanimously. **Tyler** will draft this letter.
4. **Kristen** encouraged the HCC to be represented at a Grant Writing Class led by Town Business Manager Casey Rowell at 8:30, March 12. **Lucy** will attend.
5. **Kathy** proposed a project to work on forest management plans for Town Forests. She reports that the East Hardwick Fire District

has an interest in a plan for their forest but not the time to devote to such a project. They have already met and walked the property with a forester. **Kathy** will follow up.

6. **Lucy** is gathering info from the Lake Champlain Basin Program about the Stream Wise project, which offers flood mitigation advice to property owners. The HCC might also undertake providing on-the-ground help as well as create a “tool box” available for property owners to borrow.
7. **Rachel** reported being unable yet to schedule a meeting with Jens Hilke, VT Fish and Wildlife department. Instead, **Rachel** will schedule a meeting with Matt Peters in April (and hope to connect with Jens soon). The purpose of these meetings is to gain advice about where Hardwick’s Natural Resources Inventory suggests the HCC could devote efforts at conservation.
8. **Rachel** has contacted Fish and Wildlife about scheduling a Let’s Go Fishing event. She reports that a training to certify leaders for these events will be held in April.
9. **About Springfest:**
 - A. **Rachel** is working with elem Art Teacher Beth LeCours and students are making swallows to use with this year’s float.
 - B. **Rachel, Tyler** and **Ada** expressed willingness to create a large swallow for the centerpiece as well as plants and greenery to fill the float. **Rachel** will explore with **Kathy** using space Kathy has available for this work. Members can ride the float. **Tyler** will contact Patrick Ducharme to arrange to use his flatbed.
 - C. HCC will have a booth on Main Street at the event. **Norma** will contact Jan Mueller to reserve a booth space. **Norma**

will contact **Ben** to see what plans he may already have made about plants to offer.

Further plans for the booth to be decided at the April meeting.

10. Discussion about **Open Meeting** regulations. The consensus was that we are in compliance.

11. Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

Submitted by Norma Wiesen, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 14, 2025 at 5:00PM at the Memorial Bldg.