

**Town of Williston Conservation Commission (WCC)  
Minutes of Dec 7 2016**

**Approved**

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Jude Hersey, Kim Coleman, Eric Howe, Carl Runge, Jean Kissner, Anthony Jordick
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Gary Hawley
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Melinda Scott
<b>Others Present:</b>	

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1. **Call to Order:** Anthony called the meeting to order at 7:08 AM.
  
2. **Public Comment:** None
  
3. **Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2016:** Jean made a motion and Carl seconded the motion to accept the November 30 minutes. After some discussion, the motion to accept the minutes as revised was carried with a 6-0 vote.
  
4. **McCullough property update** – Melinda stated that the McCulloughs would like to move forward with their conservation project. The Selectboard is aware of this project and has tentatively scheduled the first of two public hearings for January 3. The second public hearing will be held in early February. Eric asked who would host the second hearing – The Selectboard, Town Planning Staff or the Conservation Commission. Melinda felt as if the Conservation Commission should host it, as the primary purpose of the hearing will be to offer the public information about the project and to get public input. Melinda said that a site visit with a representative of the federal funding agency is scheduled for the morning of December 12. Once a definite time is set, she will let the WCC members know in case anyone wants to attend. WCC would like more information from the Catamount Family Center Board about their plans for the project. Melinda asked if the property were to become state land, would the town still be willing to contribute the same amount of money from the ERF? The WCC agreed that probably they would be inclined to contribute much less, and the WCC would need a lot more details about the project at any rate. Eric suggested having the McCulloughs come to a meeting to discuss their plans for the property. Kim suggested reaching out to other stakeholders such as surrounding towns and adjoining landowners, and to use the Catamount list serve as a starting point for getting contacts.
  
5. **Mud Pond Country Park Management Plan:** Carl asked whether the MPCP and MPCA Management Plans should be combined. Eric stated that because they are managed for such different uses, the Plans should be separate. Eric suggested separating the recommendations at the end of each section using a heading or bolded/italicized text. The

WCC discussed management issues, including recreational trails, access, site monitoring and education, proposed improvements, trail maintenance, active forest management, invasives monitoring and management, and temporary trail closures. Carl suggested the Plan update interval should be extended from 5 to 10 years, depending on the interval required by the VHCB Conservation Agreement.

**6. Staff Report:**

- FY18 budget update – \$20,000 for proposed new category “Trail Construction” - \$5,000 was added to trail maintenance category (pending Selectboard approval) and the remainder will need to come out of Capital Improvement Program.
- MPCP boundary survey update – Selectboard has approved the use of up to \$10,000 from ERF funds for the MPCP boundary survey. Melinda will authorize Trudell to begin the work.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:49 am.

Minutes Submitted by Melinda Scott: December 21, 2016

Approved by WCC: December 21, 20