

**Town of Williston Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of July 21, 2016**

Approved

Members Present:	Jude Hersey, Carl Runge, Eric Howe, Anthony Jordick, Jean Kissner, Kim Coleman
Members Absent:	Gary Hawley
Staff Present:	Melinda Scott
Others Present:	Debra Bell (Trudell Consulting Engineers for McCullough)

1. **Call to Order:** Jude called the meeting to order at 7:07 AM.

2. **Public Comment:** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2016:** Carl made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Anthony seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 6-0 vote.

4. **Site Plan Review – – DP 16-39 McCullough Boundary Line Adjustment:** Debra Bell of Trudell Consulting Engineers reviewed the project. As part of a reorganization of their properties, the McCulloughs wish to adjust property lines so they are around existing homes. The net result is that parcels already subject to 75% open space will be larger, and there is no intent to circumvent the open space requirement. No new development or creation of new parcels is being proposed, just reorganizing lot lines around existing houses. Carl asked why the WCC is weighing in on this, Melinda stated that the Planning office wants to inform the WCC of the project and the WCC is informing the applicant that any future subdivision would be subject to 75% open space regulations. Eric moved, and Anthony seconded the approval of the Findings and Recommendations. The motion was carried with a 6-0 vote.

5. **Discussion of changing WCC regular meeting day/time:** Jude has a conflict on Thursday mornings, so Eric suggested moving the meeting to either Tuesday or Wednesday. Melinda stated her concern that it was difficult to have a thorough and focused discussion when people are leaving by 8 AM; it has been challenging to get through the agenda topics with a quorum. Carl suggested starting earlier than 7 AM, but the members thought that would be difficult. Jean suggested having an additional meeting per month when necessary. Folks were amenable to that. WCC decided to revert to the old meeting time, first and third Wednesday of the month starting on Aug 3.
 - **Allen Brook footbridge update:** TR Fellows submitted the final design and materials list, and Melinda has requested donations from Koenig Cedar and Curtis Lumber. Melinda stated that the materials are estimated at \$2,500-

\$3,000. There was discussion about whether to build railings for the bridge, and the WCC members agreed that due to the heavy usage of the trail (and that it is used by elderly people) that railings should be constructed. We have a date to construct the project (August 13-14) and a group of willing volunteers. Eric made a motion to approve up to \$4,500 for the completion of the project. Kim seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 6-0 vote.

6. Sucker Brook Hollow Trail – tree planting estimate: Melinda stated that she has received 2 estimates for the project and that there is about a \$1,200 difference between the estimates. Eric wanted to know how much could come out of the Planning budget, Melinda will try to clarify this. There was discussion about the need for watering and whether we could do this. Melinda stated that if it's just one 5 gallon bucket per tree for each watering trip, she could do this. Jean made a motion to hire Earthscapes to plant five 4-foot trees, Carl seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 6-0 vote.

7. Staff Report/Other Business

- Allen Brook beaver “baffle” installation – Baffle was installed yesterday by Vermont Fish and Wildlife staff with Dan’s assistance. Melinda took a look late yesterday and the water level had dropped by 1 foot. Carl mentioned that the DFW staff person suggested having a trapper remove some individuals in the fall to control the population.
- Trails and parks – 2 signs have been replaced. Dan has continued to work on the Mud Pond boardwalk. The main focus this year is on the Allen Brook footbridge replacement. Jude mentioned the rec path bridge project along Route 2 near Meadow Run and asked what that will connect with. Melinda stated that it will connect to a path the Essex Alliance Church is constructing as part of their development. Eric stated that DPW projects should come before the WCC, and this one in particular is one they should have seen as the bridge is over an impaired stream, the Allen Brook.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21 am.

Minutes Submitted by Melinda Scott: August 17.

Approved by WCC: August 17