

Town of Williston Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of November 30 2016

Approved

Members Present: Jude Hersey, Kim Coleman (absent for items 1-3), Eric Howe, Carl Runge, Jean Kissner, Gary Hawley, Anthony Jordick

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Melinda Scott

Others Present:

1. **Call to Order:** Gary called the meeting to order at 7:06 AM.

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of Minutes from November 2 and November 16, 2016:** Carl made a motion and Anthony seconded the motion to accept the November 2 minutes. Eric noted that others present should include Bob Heiser (VLT) and Kate Wanner (TPL). The motion to accept the minutes as revised was carried with a 6-0 vote. Jean made a motion and Anthony seconded the motion to accept the minutes of November 16. Eric noted that on page 3 there is an incomplete sentence regarding the Wolcott Natural Area that needs clarification. Jude mentioned a typo – “thought” should be “though.” The motion to accept the minutes as revised was carried with a 6-0 vote.

4. **Request to use ERF funds for Mud Pond Country Park boundary survey:** Melinda stated that a year ago Vermont Housing and Conservation Board had asked the Town to look into clarifying the boundaries of Mud Pond Country Park after some site visits indicated there might be an encroachment on the northwest corner of the property, and the existing survey was too poor to rely upon. Melinda stated a comprehensive survey was necessary to re-establish the boundaries, in order to satisfy the request from VHCB. She is asking if the Conservation Commission would support using ERF funds to hire an engineering firm to do the survey. Under the Town’s policy, a boundary line survey is a legitimate expense of the ERF. The Town has received two bids, one from Trudell Consulting Engineers for \$8,000 and the other from Lamoureaux and Dickenson for \$8,800. The scope of work is essentially the same. Jean made a motion to recommend Trudell Consulting Engineers to do the survey and to use the ERF to fund it. Jude seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote.

5. **WCC recommendations for Winooski Valley Park District membership:** The WCC is being asked to make a recommendation regarding the Town’s continued membership in the Winooski Valley Park District. Kim said they are doing a lot of good work that provides benefit of ecosystem services to the greater Burlington area. Jude stated that Nick’s

leadership has improved the organization. Melinda recommended drafting a Memorandum of Agreement that spells out the expectations of services they will provide and a specific work plan. Gary suggested the recommendation to the Selectboard should include a recommendation to draft an agreement and a work plan. Jean made a motion to recommend continued membership with WVPD for FY 18 at an annual fee of \$31,972 under the provisions of a more formal written agreement regarding services they will provide as part of our membership and the development of a yearly work plan. Eric seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote.

- 6. WCC recommendations for Lake Iroquois Association funding request:** The WCC is being asked to make a recommendation regarding a request from the Lake Iroquois Association for \$25,000 to fund their milfoil control project. Jean stated they are doing good work, and seem responsible in their approach to controlling the milfoil. Eric is impressed with how well versed they are and how they have harnessed volunteers to do a lot of the work. Jude stated that they are trying to use best practices for the least amount of money and time. Eric stated that cleaning up the lake is a high priority as it is the most accessible lake to Williston. This is their only option for controlling milfoil. Jean made a motion to recommend the Town fund the LIA for the amount of \$25,000 for the milfoil control and other water quality efforts. Kim seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 7-0 vote.
- 7. Griswold property:** Carl brought up that Griswold property is for sale. It is the Town's top priority for conservation. However, only the house and 7.5 acres are for sale, not the entire acreage. Gary suggested Melinda contact the realtor to find out what is happening with the other part of the property. This property is near the confluence of Muddy Brook and Allen Brook, and is a high priority for conservation due to watershed benefits.
- 8. Staff Report:** Melinda stated she is applying for two grants – Recreation Trails grant to fund the Allen Brook Nature Trail improvements and a Watershed Grant to fund the development of an interpretive exhibit on the Nature Trail and Recreation Fields. Lake Champlain Basin Program is providing design assistance free of charge through their Wayside Interpretive Program.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 am.

Minutes Submitted by Melinda Scott: December 7, 2016

Approved by WCC: December 7, 2016