

**Town of Williston Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of October 5 2016**

Approved

Members Present:	Jude Hersey, Jean Kissner, Anthony Jordick, Kim Coleman
Members Absent:	Eric Howe, Gary Hawley, Carl Runge
Staff Present:	Melinda Scott
Others Present:	Rene Thibault

1. **Call to Order:** Anthony called the meeting to order at 7:05 AM.

2. **Public Comment:** None.

3. **Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2016:** Tabled until the next meeting.

4. **Site Plan Review – DP 17-04 Old Stage Road 2-Lot Subdivision:** Rene Thibault gave an overview of this proposed project. His property is currently bisected by the Allen Brook, with the land on the west side in the RZD and the land on the east side in the VZD. He wants to separate his property into 2 lots along the Allen Brook, so that they are each in a separate zoning district. He has had a wetlands delineation done, but hasn't received it yet. The access to the property is via a 20' ROW from Maple RD. He has no plans to develop the proposed new lot. Jean asked if the Town would be interested in it, as it's adjacent to the Town-owned parks. He has not been able to get access from Village Grove, as it requires cooperation from the property owner at the intersection of Village Grove and Maple Rd. Jean asked whether the proposed Lot 2 has the capacity to be subdivided again. Melinda stated a constraints analysis would need to be done to determine the allowable density on Lot 2. Rene stated the existing ROW can be used for access, but it's not wide enough for a driveway. Access is not possible from Old Stage Rd because the Town does not want a crossing over the Allen Brook. Jean made a motion and Jude seconded a motion to accept the Findings and Recommendations for this proposal. The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

5. **FY 18 CIP and Operating Budgets:** Melinda presented the proposed FY18 budget. One major change is the proposed reallocation of 20K from ERF to the operating budget under a new category of trail construction. This money could potentially fund a VYCC crew for a few weeks, especially if it's supplemented by grant funding. There was discussion about the budget line item for a summer intern, given the need to fund a VYCC crew. The intern budget and total hours have been reduced considerably. Kim suggested writing a job description that defines intern responsibilities so that could help get a better pool in future years. Jean suggested coming up with a list of focused independent projects, and try to minimize responsibilities of trail maintenance. Melinda suggested moving towards a

graduate student model. Jean stated it's important not to lose the connection with UVM, but rather than hosting a summer intern we could reach out to them on an as needed basis. Kim suggested talking to Anna Smiles Becker about these issues and ask for assistance in developing a reasonable scope of work. The WCC briefly discussed the Capital Improvement Program proposals. One of the proposed projects is a parking lot to service both the Mud Pond Conservation Area (west side) and the Mud Pond Country Park. Kim is concerned about increased usage on MPCP if we build a parking lot. Kim suggested if we build a parking lot, we need to have an MOU with Fellowship of the Wheel to maintain the trails. The WCC discussed prioritization of the proposed projects. Allen Brook Nature Trail boardwalk renovation is a high priority based on the amount of use it gets, while Brownell Mountain is the lowest priority because of other more urgent needs for trail maintenance and construction.

6. Staff Report/Other Business: Tabled until the next meeting.

- FOTW Grant for Mud Pond Country Park trails
- VAST work on Schmoker trail
- Fall water quality grants
- ERP grant for riparian restoration and stewardship
- LCBP Education and Outreach grant

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am.

Minutes Submitted by Melinda Scott: October 19

Approved by WCC: October 19