

Town of Williston Conservation Commission (WCC)
Minutes of April 19, 2017

Approved

Members Present: Jean Kissner, Jude Hersey, Kim Coleman, Anthony Jordick

Members Absent: Carl Runge, Eric Howe, Gary Hawley

Staff Present: Melinda Scott

Others Present:

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

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of Minutes from April 5:** Jean made a motion and Jude seconded the motion to approve the April 5 minutes as written. The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

4. **VYCC Service Agreement:** The WCC reviewed the VYCC Services Agreement, and suggested that the VYCC should have a separate agreement with the Lake Iroquois Association for the 2 weeks of stormwater related work at Lake Iroquois, as that is being done under a different funding source, and the length of service in Williston should be reduced from 4 to 2 weeks. Jean made a motion to accept the agreement as amended with the changes in the length of service reflected in the agreement. Jude seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a 4-0 vote.

5. **Review CCRPC maps of Potential Solar and Wind Resource Areas:** The WCC looked at the maps delivered by the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission. The WCC members stated it is hard to provide input on this map without overlaying Williston's natural resource layers. Some general thoughts were that the solar resource areas should exclude core habitat, primary foreground viewshed areas, conservation areas, and watershed protection buffers. Melinda will try to get the data layers from CCRPC to map over natural resource areas.

6. **Winooski Valley Park District MOA:** Tabled until the next meeting because we have still not heard any feedback about the proposed agreement from WVPD.

7. **Staff Report/Other Business**
 - **Allen Brook Water Quality report** – The WCC stated that the report is ready to submit to the State, with Eric's suggested revisions. Melinda will send out the final copy to WCC members.

- **Allen Brook Trail update** – After discussion with DPW and Rick McGuire, it has been determined that the water tower parcel on Mountain View Rd is not a suitable location for Ag Soils mitigation. Melinda has turned to reinvestigating the former Mahan parcel south of Route 2. Melinda researched it pretty thoroughly and thinks the parcel is not encumbered by any restrictions, but has asked Peter Keibel to confirm this. If confirmed, this could open the door to a discussion with the District Commission and Agency of Agriculture regarding a possible alternative to the Allen Brook Trail parcel for Ag Soils mitigation.
- **Catamount update** – Selectboard voted against establishing a Study Committee for the Catamount Community Forest. Concerns were raised about the disproportionate representation from outside organizations and not enough representation from Town residents. The WCC suggested trying to get a Williston resident to represent FOTW, and reaching out to the State agencies to assess the level of interest. Getting more clarity on the potential membership of the Committee will help Selectboard members feel more comfortable that Williston residents will have adequate representation. Melinda stated there is an opportunity to apply for technical assistance through the Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation for Forest Recreation Planning. She feels it would be worth applying for this assistance. Kim asked whether FPR staff knew what approach would be employed for the assistance and whether there was some flexibility around the approach or type of assistance based on the community's needs. Melinda stated that based on her initial conversation with FPR staff, she felt they were willing to take a flexible approach.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 am.

Minutes Submitted by Melinda Scott: May 3, 2017

Approved by WCC: May 3, 2017