

Tunbridge Conservation Commission (TCC)
June 20 2017 meeting minutes

In attendance: Betsy Gaiser, Issac Sacca, Michael Sacca, Butch Howe, Peggy Sherlock, Aaron Weed

Define a mission:

- advise the town and public on natural resource topics and issues
- promote opportunities for and provide natural resource education and stewardship
- promote stewardship and outreach of local trail usage and maintenance
- organization to hold funds for a land trust
 - Michael- read an email from Kate Jorgensen from Monarch Hill- suggested donating land to put into a land trust. No one from the planning committee responded. This is an opportunity.

Consider coordinating with other town committees to see how TCC can collaboratively work together

- Agric. committee
- town forest committee
- planning committee
- recreation committee
- energy comm.
- walking group (Maxine)

General discussion of member interests and focus of group

Michael:

- what are the recreation, forestry, and agricultural opportunities?
- how can TCC provide information to assist with local organizations (e.g. Alliance for VT communities)
 - Rivers Ottaquechee Regional commission has resources that we can utilize
 - What is the status of forest fragmentation in the town?

Butch- why do you post your land? Challenges in local communities for people to know where to walk and when. Can we reach some of these landowners to educate them about opening their land to locals? What are the folks in the community thinking about usage on their property?

Isaac- increasing and improving recreation opportunities, developing new trails, creating maps of trails.

Project ideas

1. Trail maintenance

- Crossroads trail maintenance- Betsy would like to see this road improved for trail usage. She will contact respective folks to ask for permission and see whether it is possible to do so.
- Prioritize areas/roads/trails to maintain or gauge usage rights- what are the current uses, talk with landowners.

2. Compile maps about the natural resources, parcels of Tunbridge.

- It was suggested that it would be good if Rudi gave an overview of the resources online.
- Hiking and other rec trail maps. Betsy mentioned that there is apparently a map of walking. She will contact Maxine Young and Ellen Hosford for more details.

3. What are the trends in land use in the area in the town? What are the parcels that are more less worth conserving or trying to find funds to conserve.

4. Find historic town lines and improved signage denoting old historic roads

5. Outreach: what are the best means to let the town know about the TCC (Aaron)

- write up a small introduction in the Tunbridge quarterly

Next meeting

- July 31st 7pm