

Tunbridge Conservation Commission - January 5, 2023 - @ TCC library - draft

Members Present: Maureen McCullough, Betsy Gaiser, Scott Beavers, Jory Innes, Evan Reiss, Michael Sacca, Cheryl Metcalf

Public Present: Betty Brown

Called to order at 6:10 pm.

Approve Dec. minutes - minutes approved with corrections.

Four-town conservation commission meeting review & thoughts-

- ❖ MG, MM, MS, CM, and EM and Rudy attended
- ❖ We appreciated the opportunity to foster inter-town communication & will continue to pursue open dialogue.
- ❖ We discussed high priority blocks, where these are (relative to each town), and how this applies to overall connectivity.
- ❖ We would like to plan a time and place for our next annual meeting.

Action item: Create a four-town land use map - MS will look into the project and create a map using biofinder.

Action item: Explore using the layers of biofinder and increasing our knowledge and comfort in using this resource.

- *EM will share a session with biofinder for the March meeting.*
- *Members can view tutorials on Vermont Fish and Wildlife's YouTube channel.*

Preliminary Strategic Plan Implementation:

- ❖ Reviewed and discussed our strategic plan agenda for the months of January-March.

Action Item: Begin research and planning for education surrounding invasive plant species.

- *MM and CM - will begin this research, ideas include Adopt a Patch Program- Guest Speakers, Got Weeds program, coordinated effort with Green Up - Town Garage website*

Wetlands discussion:

- ❖ Discussed how to increase our knowledge-base regarding wetlands.

Action Item: Preliminary reading and research and circle back to this next meeting.

- *CM shared a website from the Department of Environmental Conservation.*

Logo brainstorm:

- ❖ We discussed creating a logo for TCC

Action Item: MS has a contact and will reach out to explore this idea

ARPA fund application update- Spur Trail & River Access Proposals Discussed

- ❖ Deadline to submit proposals is January 16.
- ❖ Preliminary research and discussions have been completed by JI, MS, and SB
- ❖ **Spur Trail Proposal:** Idea was presented at town forest committee by MS and was well received, MS has also talked with the select board.
- ❖ **River Access:** Discussed ideas for developing a plan for public river access.
 1. 400 feet of river access - across from recreation field which already belongs to town
 2. 3.75 acres above for sale behind the existing 400 ft.
- ❖ Collaborative with Rec Committee for pursuing river access
- ❖ AARPA folder had been created by JI and MS has organized shared documents for ARPA applications

Action Items: TCC members will help complete ARPA proposal applications and compile necessary documents.

- ER will talk with Rudy to gather information about 400 feet parcel - get details & EM will help with application writing
- MS will talk with the landowners to tentatively grant permission for trail
- SB will help with Drew Lot Access proposal - contact and get quotes for spur trail
- JI will continue to write and share progress.
- MS will contact the recreation committee for possible partnership and further discussion.

Wildlife reports:

Other Business

2023 fundraiser

Winter evenings - sign up for future talks for refreshments

ATV Ordinance - segments of Class 3 were approved in Royalton - petition to rescind

Follow up with select board about ATV ordinance

Fire event postponed- date TBD - EM will put out an all call to help w. dry wood pallets for this event

Meeting Adjourned approximately 8:00