

CCC Minutes - DRAFT

2/3/16

Grant Orenstein, Julie Hand, Larry Bush, Stephanie Kaplan, Drew Lamb  
(recorder)

Guest – Richard Maizell

1. Review and approval of January minutes – Approved unanimously with minor modifications.
2. Conservation Fund balance – ??
3. Armstrong farm update – Ella Armstrong is willing to sell her farm for \$350,000, the amount of the appraisal. If conservation easements are put on it, a farmer could purchase it for \$180,000, while \$170,000 would have to be raised through private donors, the Housing & Conservation Board (VHCB), and the town. There is an opportunity in April to apply for a grant from the VHCB. Jon is looking for CC input into developing the conservation easements. We're suggesting having a joint SB and CC meeting **next weekend**. We would meet at the town office with Jon and Liz Thompson, well known ecologist who works for the Land Trust and who is very familiar with the property and its natural resource values. We can look at the property on a map, and Liz would talk to us about the property, proposed conservation easements, etc. Then we would go walk around and look at some of the land and particularly the Pekin Brook as it runs through the property, so we can all see for ourselves what the property includes and what we want to see covered by a conservation easement.

A joint meeting with the select board, the CC, and Liz Thompson from VLT has been arranged to discuss potential conservation easements. The meeting is on 2/14 (Sunday) at 1:30. We will meet first at the town office, then visit the farm. Julie, Drew, Stephanie, Larry, and probably Richard will be there – Grant will be gone.

4. Natural Resources Inventory report –

Everyone generally quite impressed with the organization, content, and level of detail in the NRI. The maps are great, especially the maps of the macrosite. CC wants to be sure that we can access the same level of

detail for the rest of the town that are not macrosites. Assume this will be provided through GIS shapefiles and pdfs. Need to ask Matt about this.

Question came up (again) in town plan public hearing Monday (2/1) about how the town will use the NRI information. Discussed that at this point it is only information and will help us to protect natural resources. For example, identifying these things will encourage things like curb cuts to happen somewhere else nearby but not THROUGH a wildlife corridor.

Stephanie commented to Matt that language in the report that might be inflammatory should be avoided (for example, the word “target”).

With approved funding on town meeting day, Matt will continue phase 2 beginning in the spring.

#### 5. Proposed shoreland zoning changes update

Public hearing 2/15, 7pm, Town Office.

Stephanie provided a short history of the proposed changes and changes to the changes. Planning commission really wants to change the 800' deep shoreland district to 250'.

Generally felt by the CC that the existing regulations provide better protection for our lakes and streams AND are much clearer than the state regulations, particularly with respect to vegetative clearing.

Grant is looking into overlap between shoreland and village district and for where that occurs, what prompted the zoning to be written as it is.

Garner support from neighbors to either come to the meeting or write letters to the select board in support of existing shoreland zoning.

#### 6. Update on existing projects

Aquatic Resources Committee – Try and sponsor a workshop for Calais residents on stream channels and riparian processes. Shooting for early spring. Select board, Scott in particular, has been very supportive of a program like this.

“Communicating and Collaborating to Protect Vermont’s River Corridors” (1/21/16). Workshop attended by CC members – Stephanie, Julie, Larry, Scott Bassage.

7. New projects for 2016

Bobolink project (Stephanie)

Completing Bliss Forest Plan (Drew/Neal)

Integrating elementary school science projects with local geography and projects (Richard). Drew – email Richard Chauntelle’s email and reason for presenting to school board.

[Tabled this discussion for later date when all members are present]

8. Other business

Select board intends to adopt the town plan as is with CC wording of regulatory guidance section, etc.

Town meeting (article 9) – Discussion about town plan being adopted by Australian Ballot.

9. Public comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.