

AMENDED MINUTES

Calais Conservation Commission Minutes October 10, 2017

start time 7:13

Present: Julie Hand - recorder, Stephanie Kaplan, Larry Bush, Drew Lamb, Lou Cherry, Neil Maker. Guest: Jamie Moorby

Approved July and September minutes

Riparian Buffer at the Gospel Hollow Edible Park: Jamie clarified the plans for the riparian buffer bordering the Gospel Hollow Edible Park (GHEP). Pekin and (Elmslie) brooks flow along both sides of the park and meet at the park's southern tip. The GHEP has applied for a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Friends of Winooski to obtain required funds for plants and supplies for the garden project. Selectboard approval is necessary for the contract with this grant, and GHEP was seeking our approval as well. Jamie discussed the contract with us, showed us a map of buffer plantings, and outlined further plans. We fully support the GHEP project, and voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectboard that they agree to support and sign the Forested Riparian Buffer Memorandum of Agreement between the Friends of the Winooski River and the Town of Calais.

Town Plan Action steps:

* Neal had organized the Action Steps into a more comprehensive way of approaching the many items the CC said it would accomplish over the next 5 years. We discussed the various Action Steps in the Town Plan for projects we could work on. We also talked about needing to start figuring out how to protect those natural resources that Matt Peters identified in his Natural Resources Inventory as being important. Public Outreach and Education are a top priority. First we need to identify which property owners to work with. We will ask Matt Peters if he would come to a CCC meeting and help us identify the most important natural resources and most significant properties and landowners that would be willing to work with us.

* We also discussed Matt's suggestion that we use Calais citizens including some school children to follow up on some of the things he wasn't able to do, such as identifying amphibian crossings and turtle habitat.

* Implementing some of the Action Steps and trying to protect certain sites and species identified as significant in the Natural Resource Inventory will involve proposing new zoning, and therefore we need to coordinate with the Planning Commission. The CC agreed it would be a good idea to contact the PC to talk about how to go about this. Stephanie agreed to contact Jan about this.

* Stephanie explained that the Town Plan becomes important in Act 250 proceedings involving large projects. Most development in Calais does not rise to the level of needing an Act 250 permit. However, there are occasionally projects that need an Act 250 permit, and compliance with the Town Plan is one of the criteria that applicants have to meet. If a Town Plan contains language that is mandatory (i.e. "shall" or "will" rather than "should" or "hopefully"), then that must be complied with. So it's important that whatever natural resources are identified in the Town Plan as being significant to protect that the language be clear and mandatory.

* Stephanie talked about her interest in identifying gravel deposits in town. Neal said they could be fairly easily identified on maps and agreed to work with Stephanie to do this.

Lakes and Streams Committee: Discussed the financial snafu with the LSC newsletter.

Fall Foliage Walk (Bradley Trail): There was a good turnout and the rain ended and it was beautiful, but there was a yellow jacket nest right on the trail and people were getting stung so they had to turn back. Obviously Darby had not been aware of this and he destroyed the nest, so everyone should feel comfortable about walking on the trail.

New members: Brainstormed names for new CCC members.

TO DO:

CCC to do: Take a look at Acton Steps. Become familiar with them and consider what you might want to focus on in the coming months.

Stephanie

- * Will email Jamie CCC member emails.
- * Will contact Jan about working with Planning and Zoning to protect natural resources.
- * Will find out what action is needed to protect areas of concern in or particular value found in The NRI report.

Julie

- * Will contact Matt about coming to November 14th meeting.

End time: 9:03