

## Final Draft

### Calais Conservation Commission Minutes

**Date:** March 1, 2017

**Location:** Calais Town Office

**Present:** Stephanie Kaplan, Julie Hand, Larry Bush, Richard Maizell, Lou Cherry, Neal Maker, Grant Orenstein

**Absent:** Drew Lamb

**Guests:** Selectboard Members: Denise Wheeler, John Brabant, Scott Bassage, Rose Pelchuck; Jan Ohlsson-Calais Resident and Planning Commission Committee Member

Stephanie called meeting to order at 7: 06 p.m.

#### 1. Agenda revisions or additions:

Stephanie suggested to discuss agenda item 5 first (Town Meeting presentation) then item 4 (energy survey) due to time constraints. Julie made motion to approve agenda revision, Larry seconded motion. All in favor.

#### 2. Approve February Minutes:

Julie made motion to approve as written, Larry seconded. All in favor.

#### 3. Conservation Fund Balance: \$80,125.69

#### 4. Conservation Fund presentation for Town Meeting:

Copies of presentation were distributed and discussed.

Minor edit made to grid, (change Calais Fund Amount to Contribution, to be clear on what funds were made from the CC).

Neal developed map highlighting properties in Calais where CC made some type of contribution. It was agreed the map was an excellent visual. Neal will change the color of areas on the map that are public access.

Larry will speak at town meeting, Julie will be the back up if necessary. Denise reminded group to let Gus know ahead of time that they wanted to speak specific to article 2.

#### 5. Energy Survey:

Stephanie and Jan Ohlsson explained the importance of completing the survey. The survey is due March 6, 2017 and appears to be convoluted, and confusing on intent. Act 174 allows the towns voice on renewable energy around the state but they have to satisfy very strict criteria established by the state. The town or city plans are submitted to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission for approval and have to be certified by the Department of Public Service. This is a top-down process that contradicts the state's long-standing tradition

of planning starting at the municipal level. Jan emphasized the importance of completing the survey and to include feedback about our concerns. She pointed out that what is decided here could potentially impact all new development in our town.

Neal showed a map highlighting what was off limits for large projects or development currently. The map also identified constraints and possible constraints. John and Jan discussed advocating clearly for what we want and what we don't want for our town. A lot of discussion around table specific to what to do in order to meet our share or contribution of energy at the state level. Jan advised to consider when answering the question on what we want locally versus regionally and the impact our town can and would have. John recommended the Planning Committee and Conservation Commission Committee come together to send a consistent message. By 8:45 p.m. it was decided more time was needed to complete the survey. Each person agreed to take the survey home, review and meet the following Monday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m.

**6. Public Comment:** None

**7. Other Business:** None

The meeting was recessed at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Candi Smith,  
Conservation Commission Recording Secretary

**March 6, 2017. Continuation of March 1, meeting to discuss Energy Survey only.  
Meeting Convened at 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Stephanie (recorder), Lou, Neal, Larry, Grant

Absent: Drew, Julie, Richard

Guest: John Brabant – selectboard member

The discussion about the CVRPC survey continued. Stephanie reported that the CVRPC agreed to an extension until March 10 for submitting the survey. The members present agreed on responses to the questions. Neal said he would send a draft to a minority of the CC to review before he submits it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the CC is being held on March 9 for Matt Peters to present his Natural Resources Inventory report. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in April.