MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
December 12, 2016
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Daphne Tanis, Peter Hiskes, Dan Steinbauer, Betsy Chapek, Nancy McRae, Laurie Graham

Absent: Pat Lamphere,

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen reviewed the agenda and welcomed all.

Public Comment: No person(s) were present for public comment.

Approval Minutes: November 14, 2016 minutes approved.

Discussion:

Signage Update

Amy reported the Crane Brook signs were approved at the Town Select Board Meeting, paid by the town, and delivered to her home. Select Board has asked the UCC to hold off installing the Fuller Road sign. Amy and Karen to do more research on the Fuller Road sign installation location. It was suggested that a 'border-map' could be included and posted with the Conservation/Trail Signs.

Update – Budget Items Requests – A/V Equipment

Karen shared that some of the Audio/Visual equipment requested by the 4 (four) town groups has been delivered. The new LCD Projector can be run by a smartphone app. Also the screen has been delivered. The Town Planning Commission, Development Review Board and Energy requested similar Audio/Visual equipment; PA systems, Microphone, LCD Projector, Dedicated Laptop Computer and Screen, during the town budget process.

Class II and Class III Wetlands

In the ULUDR adopted in 2011, 'Setbacks shall be at least 100 feet from all Class I wetlands (brooks), 50 feet from class II wetlands. The Class III wetlands setback is 25 feet'.

The UCC talked about both Class II and Class III setbacks being at least 50 feet, and with the possibility of expanding the Class II to 100 feet.

UCC would like to petition the town (Town Planning Commission) for the 50 foot setbacks for Class III and 100 feet for Class II.

Again Dan made an important point: conservation wetland setback changes must be documented in both 1.) the Town Plan and 2.) the Town Zoning documents, to be enforceable.

Further discussion ensued. It was agreed, in order to go forward with a petition for change, more research is required. The UCC needs to understand the State's definition of the various classes of wetlands. Discussion tabled until next meeting. Peter and Amy offered to do research.

Spring Workshops Planning

Black Bear Follow-on presentation/workshop – Daphne will get to Forrest Hammond on a spring workshop/presentation on Black Bears. Preferred time for such an event would be March.

Amy has contacted Eric Sorkin, local Sugarer, running an event; 'Bird Friendly Maple Sugaring'. UCC agreed to developing and holding event in April. Also, planning involving local Audubon Biologist, Steve Hagenbuch.

Daphne offered to explore the idea of an educational event; 'Living with Beavers- Beaver Ecology and Maintenance'. She related the work currently being done by her neighbors to maintain balance with beavers building dams, creating ponds, blocking culverts and town road maintenance.

Town of Underhill Annual Report

Karen advised she is currently creating a writing piece to be included in the Town Annual Report. She asked the Commission with help identifying a list of year's past activities/events and a list of possible projects for the future.

Last years' activities/events: Plant Sale, Green-up Day, EAB education and surveys, Black Bear Education, Replacing Crane Brook signs, and Lamoille Basin – Act 64 education and involvement. List of possible future projects: Creating Brook signs, developing Crane Brook map signage, involvement with ACT 64 projects, developing an eco-friendly mowing schedule with the Town Road crew, and Beaver Ecology and Management.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was moved by Karen and seconded by Amy. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 12-15-16 V2 **draft**

DRAFT