

Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC)
Underhill Town Hall
May 16, 2011, 6:30 P.M

Members present: Trevor Squirrell - chair, Barbara Green, Barbara Yerrick, Karen McKnight and Faith Ingulsrud. Also Merianne O'Grady and Pat Sabalis

1. **Large Habitat Block Regional Connectivity Project** – Trevor announced a meeting on May 25th at the Jericho Town Hall that will be a presentation of the wildlife tracking project UCC was involved in. Jesse Mohr and Jens Hilke will present. Representatives of Hinesburg and two other towns will attend. The Regional Planning Commission has funding for other towns to do this type of work. Direct funding from the state Agency of Transportation is also a possibility.
2. **Green-up Day** – Barbara Y discussed what worked and didn't at this year's Green Up Day. Overall, participation seemed higher than in recent years. Communications with Clean Green were not clear – they expected to pick up only the bags. (They donated the dumpsters but UCC is paying for fuel). They eventually picked up tires and large items and it was generally agreed that using their services was worthwhile. For next year the following suggestions were made.
 - For the Underhill Flats site, Mills Riverside Park might be a better place for drop off than the former Four Shop. It would be good to coordinate that site with Jericho since Jericho residents appreciated having a drop-off site in the Flats but we can assume that many didn't see or know about it.
 - For Underhill Center, Town Hall may be a good location for drop-offs so both pick up and drop off of the bags can occur in the same place.
 - Get school teachers involved in the day.
 - Because weather conditions can affect participation and spring has been getting earlier, consider making Green Up bags available 2 weeks in advance of the day.Barbara was thanked for her work in organizing Green Up Day.
3. **Plant Sale** – Faith went through the list of Plant Sale Tasks to assign duties in preparation for the annual sale that will take place June 4, 2011. She sent out the first wave of publicity and will do another round before the sale. The following tasks were assigned:
 - Karen will post the 7 Days announcement, handle the blueberries and cashier at the event.
 - Trevor will handle the sandwich boards, check with the Center Store on refreshments, assemble a cash box, put together conservation information as well as a recruiting sheet. He will have a key to open the building.
 - Barbara G. will arrive early on the day to help set up and will bring a bulletin board.
 - In addition to publicity, Faith will arrive early for set up, bring supplies and will clean up. She will contact auctioneer and make sure tasks are accomplished.
4. **Trails Committee** – Karen reported on a meeting scheduled for May 17 at 9 a.m. to walk the Crane Brook trails with wetlands and wildlife experts from the State to determine where trails should go and where they should be avoided. The boundaries were surveyed and marked previously. Trevor said he would go.

Pat Sabalis requested that UCC monitor the conservation/trail easement on the properties that were subdivided across from Casey's Hill. The subdivision approval required the easements and responsibility given to UCC to walk the trail annually to make sure it stays open and in passable condition. Trevor will look into the easements and report back.

Members discussed the need for bridges across streams on many trails, which raised the issue of the new state wetland rules that now require permits for a many more wet areas than previously. The need for more information and outreach to landowners was discussed.

5. **School Project** – Barbara G. reported that the Browns River Middle School (BRMS) students would be doing field study on New Road, and were properly cautioned to stay on the public road.
6. **Town Plan Natural Resource Section, UCC Work Plan** – Trevor presented an updated version of the priority list of Town Plan Goals related to the UCC. All agreed that the Open Space Plan is an overarching task that many of the other inventory and mapping tasks would contribute to, so even though it is a high priority, it should be considered medium-term. After discussion, Trevor said he would summarize the work plan in a 1-2 page document that can better be used to communicate with the public and to more easily keep track of priorities.

The question of how landowners would react to the proposed significant wildlife habitat map was raised. It was suggested that communication and public involvement was critical to avoid misunderstandings. It was suggested that articles on conservation be written for the Mountain Gazette, to help get the community involved – perhaps six times per year. Priority topics will be identified.

7. **Minutes of April 24, 2001** – Karen made a motion to approve the minutes and Barbara Y seconded. All voted to approve. Faith noted that this would be her last UCC meeting as she will resign after the Plant Sale.

Respectfully submitted, Faith Ingulsrud, Secretary, Conservation Commission

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

5/21/11 DRAFT