

**MINUTES**  
**Underhill Conservation Commission**  
**September 12, 2016**  
**Underhill Town Hall**

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

Absent: Dan Steinbauer

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

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

Approval Minutes: August 11, 2016 minutes were edited and approved.

*Discussion:*

### **Town Capital Improvement Plan**

Pat explained *the call* for items to be included in the Towns 'Capital Improvement Plan'. Pat outlined the difference between improvements and maintenance. Karen pointed out that a typical Capital Improvement that UCC would make could be a land purchase. Daphne mentioned building a new trail. All suggestions for Improvements should be sent to Karen by end of month.

### **Black Bear Project Update**

#### Fall Presentation

At this time Daphne and Betsy have not confirmed a speaker with date and time for the 'Be Bear Aware' citizen education presentation planned for October. Karen confirmed we have \$500 available from the UCC funds to pay for Sue Morse, should she be confirmed as speaker for October's Awareness/Education presentation. Daphne could not confirm actual date for Forrest Hammond, as he is on assignment in wilderness in Idaho.

#### Black Bear Purview

Daphne presented 5 items which she proposed as the Purview.

1. UCC Member and Town administration Education/Awareness
  - a. Population and what is a Black Bear
  - b. Why a growing concern
  - c. Sources of Food
  - d. Resources available
  - e. Who to call

- f. Bear encounter – what to do?
  2. Town Of Underhill Citizens Education/Awareness
  3. Identifying Resources available to the town
  4. Map/Track/identify Black Bear Sightings and Events
  5. Advisory Role

Pat recommended we focus on items 1. and 2. All were in general agreement with Pat. Pat and Daphne recommend that all posters, FPF postings and pamphlets should be directly copied and recommended by Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Front Porch Forum and Town postings would consist of the following; a. Invitation to Town Presentation, b.) 'A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear' – eliminating food sources c.) Bear Encounter- What to do d.) Bear-Proof Garbage Containers and, e.) Clean Compost.

Daphne named some of the food sources citizens present to Black Bears unknowingly; bird feeders, bee hives, BBQ grill, garbage cans inside and outside, bee hives, crop fields and chicken coops

### **Crane Brook Signage**

Karen opened the discussion about the sign dimensions and cost of the 3 Crane Brook trail signs and 4 other brook signs. She offered to check on the cost of the break-away post and make sure information on specifications and installation would be relayed to The Town Road Maintenance crew to be installed. The UCC will formally request The Town do the installation.

Adjournment: Meeting was shortened so members could attend Coverts presentation hosted by Lisa Sausville. The motion to adjourn was moved by Karen and seconded by Pat. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 10, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 9-12-16 **draft dpt**