

Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC)
Underhill Town Hall
March 12, 2012 Minutes

Present: Trevor Squirrell (chair), Barbara Yerrick, Barbara Green, Karen McKnight, Merianne O'Grady

1. LARGE HABITAT BLOCK REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT: Trevor reported that the current portion of the project has been completed and is in GIS data format. There is talk about expanding it in the area of wildlife connectivity.

There is also a new road-crossing project in the works, and Trevor stated he will update UCC on it after he meets with Jen Hilke, member of the Jericho-Uncerhill Conservation Board.

2. TRAILS COMMITTEE (reported by Karen, who is also a member of TC): Karen stated that the committee is a bit in 'limbo' over the kiosks which were planned at two two places on public lands which were to be opened for a trail near Irish Settlement Road. Apparently, placement of one of the kiosks and public parking issue near the new road piece off of Irish Settlement is being contested by Dave D. as obstructing the right of way to this road. There is now a suit by Dave D. and Jeff Moulton against the Trails Committee and the Town of Underhill, so the kiosks will not be built until this is resolved. This suit is now in Environmental Court, and there is a 90-day injunction against proceeding with the development of the trail. Karen was told that this suit should be wrapped up by next Fall, although she senses the suit is 'no where' in terms of being resolved at this point. Trevor clarified that now there is a combined suit by Dave and Jeff, challenging both the Town of Underhill's Select Board's decision, and well as that of the VT Natural Resources Board (UCC - PLEASE NOTE: need clarification on if this information is correct).

Karen also reported that the Underhill Town Trails Handbook had been published, and is available on the town's website. Also, the town budget has allotted money for an updated version of the

handbook .

3. CRANE BROOK PROJECT: Trevor reported that there are no updates on this project at this time.

4. AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND CULVERT PROJECT: Trevor stated that the Aquatic Organisms and Culvert project is being pulled together by Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and US Fish and Wildlife. Three of the four involved culverts in Underhill are in the initial phase and some results are forthcoming. This project was presented and approved by the Select Board. There is sufficient money for the design, but financing for the implementation is still needed.

5. GREEN-UP DAY (Saturday, May 5, 2012): It was agreed that the set-up for folks to drop-off items did not function very effectively last year. People did not utilize the site at the former Flour Shop on VT-15 as hoped. There were also issues with the tires being picked up several days later by Clean Green.

It was proposed that it would be more useful this Green-Up Day for both Underhill and Jericho residents to have a dumpster at Mills Riverside Park instead of the Flour Shop. The park is a more centralized location. In addition, it was suggested that Clean Green should be willing to take the turned-in tires to the landfill gratis this year.

Barbara Y. clarified that we should have dumpsters at the Town Garage again as well. In addition, scrap metal and tires will again be prohibited from placement in all available dumpsters during Green-Up Day.

Trevor suggested that another possible option would be to place a dumpster at the Brown's River Middle School, since it too is in a relatively central location. He wondered if permission from the school was needed to do so. However, it was then realized that Clean Green would not pick up in time for the beginning of the school week, so it seemed that Mills Riverside Park would be a better location. If the park is the location of choice, Trevor proposed that we think about having two dumpsters there for Green-Up Day - one for tires and scrap metal, and the other for

recycables.

Barbara G. offered to speak to Jessica, the Jericho Town Clerk, regarding utilization of Jericho's Mills Riverside Park for Green-Up Day.

To make sure that the Underhill Town Garage would be available, and that a staff-person from the town would oversee it on Green-Up Day, it was suggested that we speak first to Dawn (new Underhill Administrator) who could present this to the Select Board and then the Underhill Road Crew Foreman could designate a crew person to be there during the drop-off hours.

It was proposed that the two sites for drop-off on GU-D (if permission is obtained) will be Mills Riverside Park and the Underhill Town Garage

Barbara Y. offered to find out about the Green-Up bags and their availability to the public.

In terms of advertising GU-D, it was proposed that the event be posted with the following:

- local Front Porch Forums
- Two-Towns website
- The Mountain Gazette
- Town of Jericho website
- Town of Underhill website

6. PLANT SALE (this year: Saturday, June 2nd): It was noted that the UCC will have two more meetings (April and May) before this event. Barbara G. suggested that we sell blueberries again this year. This was a good source of money at the event last year. Trevor suggested that we increase the order by another 33%, with three different varieties available, like last year. He will get in touch with Faith Ingulsrud, former member of UCC, who was in charge of the Plant Sale in 2011, regarding time-line for planning the event and other Plant Sale details.

7. NEW BUSINESS: Trevor pointed out that this commission is in need of new members. It was suggested that we post a notice to this effect on the local Front-Porch Forum sites and the Two-Town website. Trevor also thought that we should ask Dawn to inform Underhill residents, when they come to the Underhill Town Hall

during business hours, that we are actively looking for new UCC members. In the near future, the Commission will be working on / continuing to work on projects such as the Fish Project, an expansion of the Large Habitat Blocks and Regional Conductivity Project, a riparian-related project, etc. Show-casing specific projects, which are both tangible and include proposed time-lines, might make the Commissions mission/goals/work more appealing to potentially interested Underhill residents.

8. OTHER: Trevor clarified that Barbara Greene is scheduled to serve on the Commission until 2013.

9. NEXT UCC MEETING: Monday, April 9, 7:00 P.M., Underhill Town Hall, downstairs

Respectfully submitted, Merianne O'Grady, Underhill Conservation Commission member

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.
3/18/12 DRAFT