

Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC)
Underhill Town Hall
August 13, 2012

Present: Trevor Squirrell (chair), Barbara Greene, Merianne O'Grady

1. OPENING REMARKS: The subject of the need for new UCC members was again discussed. Trevor stated he has tried various approaches to reach out to Town residents, in hopes of sparking some interest, without success. Barbara G. felt that unless one has a real "passion" for this kind of community involvement, the motivation just isn't there. Trevor suggested that we might do an article for the Mountain Gazette about the mission and current projects UCC is involved in, with an emphasis on bringing new folks to the Commission. We all agreed that this is a good idea.

2. TRAILS COMMITTEE: Karen, who reports to UCC on the Underhill Trails Committee (UTC), was absent for this meeting. Trevor indicated that UTC is thinking about a joint undertaking between them and UCC around the Crane Brook area. However, since there are still two pending law suits involving the town of Underhill and this area, it might be best not to proceed until they are resolved. We will get an update from Karen at the next UCC meeting.

3. FISH PASSAGE PROJECT/AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND CULVERT PROJECT: Trevor asked if we had reviewed the "Erosion and Scour Reduction Through Culvert Retrofit Construction in the Browns River" documentation he sent out via e-mail to UCC members recently. (This documentation summarizes the Needs; Goals and Details; Tasks and Timeline; Budget; and Project Team Members relevant to the Town of Underhill's three culvert retrofits. Trevor also included letters of support from both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, plus the Town of Underhill's

Certificate of Coverage from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.) UCC members present discussed the Irish Settlement Road project, which will be the first of the three Underhill Town culverts to be retrofitted (the others being the Barrett Lane and Beartown Rd. culverts). There is an interest in bringing classes from the Underhill Elementary School, which is walking distance from the Irish Settlement Road culvert, to the site, and use the retrofit as an educational opportunity. Trevor indicated that this culvert retrofit is scheduled for completion by approximately mid-October. At this point, Trevor suggested it best for us to wait for the work to be initiated before involving the school. Permission for workers and equipment to be present on surrounding private land during the project still needs to be obtained before work can begin.

3. HARVEST MARKET: This year's Underhill Harvest Market is scheduled for Saturday, September 29th, and Sunday, September 30th at Mills Riverside Park. Barbara G. stated that she reserved a booth for the UCC back in June. We are #76, which is in a fairly central location. UCC will not be joined by the Jericho Land Trust, and so providing representation at the booth during the Market will be totally up to UCC this year. Members present discussed whether we would have sufficient numbers of us available that weekend to provide coverage. The Market schedule is: Friday (9/28) set-up from 4-7 p.m.; Saturday (9/29) Market open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday (9/30) Market open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This is a total of approximately 14 hours of UCC-member time required. Trevor offered to contact the absent UCC members regarding their availability that weekend, and communicate via e-mail with all of us re: schedule for the UCC booth during the Market.

4. NEXT UCC MEETING: Monday, September 10, 7:00 P.M., Underhill Town Hall, downstairs

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

Adjournment: 8:00 p.m.

8/18/12 DRAFT