

Natural Resources Inventory and Mapping Committee  
Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2020

Attending:

Conservation Commission

Karen McKnight

Pat Lamphere

Planning Commission

Val Stori

Sandy Wilmot

Public

Ryan Ochs

The meeting began at 6:33 pm.

No public comment was offered.

Sandy suggested meeting guidelines to facilitate constructive discussions. All agreed.  
(Attached below)

Val reviewed discussions she has had with other towns that conducted mapping for their towns to see what they could offer for advice and examples of “requests for proposals” for getting inventory work done. Some things that they found helpful was to include information from citizens that spend time outdoors, like loggers, foresters, hunters, for their observations on wildlife presence or corridors. Other strategies included having some form of bio blitz on private land to get people excited and offer data for landowners. Since many towns have experiences that could benefit our process and/or have large undeveloped land blocks that abut our town, we agreed to set up a video chat with those willing to help. The first call will be done sometime in the next month to discuss their process for completing the mapping project. Later we will set up a call with adjacent towns.

As a reminder of why we are doing this project, we agreed to review the online video that Jens Hilke and colleagues made related to Act 171.

Link: [https://youtu.be/ZWal\\_YKxXz4](https://youtu.be/ZWal_YKxXz4)

Sandy showed the Johnson natural resource maps that are online as an example of what sorts of data were used and how it has been made available to the public.

Link: <http://arrowwoodvt.com/johnsonri/>

Ryan prepared several maps for our viewing and discussions. One of the maps had wildlife road crossings. Karen suggested we find the work done a few years ago as part of an upland wildlife connectivity project. She will find the link and send it to Ryan and the Committee.

Ryan informed us of all the natural resource inventory information present on the Firing Range due to years of compiling this information with help from a naturalist. Our maps will depend on the goals we set. The goals will drive the level of detail we go on private lands. Whatever our future maps include, we will need to describe each layer, when it was created, by who, and why it is important. Ryan will start this process using the metadata associated with each layer.

Pat brought up the value of natural resource maps in locating historic Native American grounds. But history has shown that if these areas are put on a map, they end up getting trashed by visitors.

Next steps:

- Ryan will continue to complete the 7 basic maps needed for the inventory, and start including metadata links for each data layer. He will send everyone copies (as PDFs) once they are completed.
- Karen will send the link to additional data on road crossings and connectivity.
- Val will contact Jens Hilke for names of towns that have completed mapping projects, then contact them to see who might participate with us on a video chat.
- Everyone should watch the Act 171 video.

Next meeting: July 21 at 6:30 pm

Adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Wilmot

### **NRIMC Meeting Guidelines**

- Be clear about our purpose and tasks so we can focus the discussions.
- Listen to what others have to say with respect and open mindedness because everyone's ideas are valuable.
- Use positive and constructive comments, and don't make comments to others that are personal.
- If you have a problem with how the meetings are run make suggestions on improvements.
- Decisions will be made by consensus where possible. If not possible a majority rule vote will be used.