

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
November 14, 2016
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Daphne Tanis, Peter Hiskes, Dan Steinbauer

Absent: Pat Lamphere, Laurie Graham, Nancy McRae, Betsy Chapek

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

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

Approval Minutes: October 10, 2016 minutes approved.

Discussion:

Signage Update

Amy received invoice from Signarama. Signarama requires payment-in-advance for the two (2) Crane Brook trail signs replacement (small order of \$237.30). Amy forwarded Signarama's invoice to Daphne. The Town's process for payment requires approval of Selectboard prior to check writing. Daphne to deliver Signarama's invoice to Brian Bigelow to be presented to Selectboard for payment.

Update – A/V Budget Items Requests

Karen briefed group on other town's groups with similar request. The Town Planning Commission, Development Review Board and Energy requested similar Audio/Visual equipment; PA systems, Microphone, LCD Projector, Dedicated Laptop Computer and Screen.

Discussion ensued, UCC members all agreed that with all four Town groups requiring the same equipment, we should work with them to get; 1.) technically compatible equipment, 2.) equipment offering function(s) to support all groups' requirements, and 3.) obtain quality pieces.

Action Item - Karen to speak to other groups to move request along faster.

Class II and Class III Wetlands

Karen shared minutes from the recent joint meeting of the Underhill Planning Commission and the Underhill DRB. The wetland setback requirements have changed. Karen wanted to share this information with the UCC and get their thoughts on the matter. In the ULUDR adopted in 2014, Setbacks shall be at least 100 feet from all Class I wetlands (brooks), 50 feet from class II wetlands. The Class III wetlands setback is 25 feet.

The consensus of the UCC, was both Class II and Class III setbacks should be at least 50 feet. And if necessary the UCC would like to petition the town (Town Planning Commission) for the 50 foot setbacks for both Class II and Class III.

Karen advised of the Density bonus: The Land Density Bonus has the potential to be in conflict with the Town Plan.

Dan made an important point: conservation wetland setback changes must be documented in both 1.) the Town Plan and 2.) the Town Zoning documents, to be enforceable.

Spring Workshops Planning

Black Bear Follow-on Presentation/workshop – Daphne will get to Forrest Hammond on a spring workshop/presentation on bears. Preferred time for such an event would be March.

Amy suggested a presentation/workshop about Habitat Friendly Sugaring. She suggested a session/educational workshop involving the local Audubon Biologist, Steve Hagenbuch and Eric Sorkin , local Sugarer (Audubon Sugarer Habitat Program participant). The members thought this a great idea based on the number of Sugarers in the Underhill community. Action item - Amy to talk to the respective parties with an idea about a workshop in the spring.

Lamoille River Basin Public Meeting

Daphne shared the following takeaways from the meeting:

1. Small Farm set-backs and manure management will be administered by the Agriculture Department of Vermont.
2. The Basin project has already scoped several road erosion projects in the town of Underhill.
3. Invasive Species are one of the important stressors identified by the Act 64 implementation group. We must identify locations in Underhill.
4. Now is the time to identify projects in Underhill so the UCC and Town may obtain grants and financing from the state and federal programs.

EAB Bark Peeling Workshop in Essex 11-15-16

Dan shared a planned Bark Peeling EAB Workshop at the State Forestry offices in Essex on Wednesday, November 16th. Dan received short notice, most members were probably not available to attend.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was moved by Karen and seconded by Peter. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2016, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 11-14-16 **draft v2.2**

DRAFT