

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
October 9, 2017
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Daphne Tanis, Betsy Chapek, Nancy McRae, Laurie Graham, and Pat Lamphere

Absent: Dan Steinbauer, Amy Golodetz, Peter Hiskes

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

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

Guest Speaker:

Ethan Tapper, Consulting Forest Manager from Chittenden County, joined the UCC meeting in an exchange/collaboration of ideas. Karen invited Ethan to speak to the UCC members, so that the UCC could understand how he could help and advise the Underhill Conservation Commission in developing an *Open Space and Resources* Town Map. Ethan explained his role and responsibilities as the following:

- Overseeing Timber Sales
- Land Management Advisory Role
- General Forest Management consulting
- Management of the Vermont “Use” Program parcels
- Assistance in developing resident’s ‘Use’ Plans

Action item: Ethan volunteered to survey the Town Crane Brook Conservation lands, which have been proposed for development of a new Underhill Town Fire Station. He agreed to get back to the UCC with a written report, with an eye on the many environmental microsystems that exist on the Crane Brook parcel.

Discussion:

Morse Park Clean-up day Debrief

- Many UCC members and their spouses showed up to help with the clean-up
- Amy was able reclaim the Butterfly garden on the site
- Karen and Betsy and others helped to fill Kurt Johnson’s truck up several times

- Kurt and Karen drive to the Chamberlain property to dump the wood and debris.
- The trail was widened and the picnic area was cleaned
- The group observed the great outgrowth of Japanese Knot Weed

Action Items:

1. Betsy to write thank you note to Kurt Johnson for cutting down all the dead trees.
2. Laurie will do research on the proper removal of Knot Weed and report back next meeting.

Fire Station Proposal for Crane Brook

- Karen opened discussion regarding the Town’s proposal to build a new fire station on the Crane Brook Conservation land.
- Discussion followed, many members expressed concerns of the wild life corridors and environmental ecologic microsystems on the conservation land.

Action Item: Karen plans to have a site review/survey meeting with Peter Bennett next week.

Land Use and Zoning Changes

. Karen opened discussion on the many land use zoning changes the town is proposing. Many members expressed great concerns regarding the change in character, Infrastructure needed and tax increases this may bring about. Specifically; 1.) The cost and infrastructure for creating the village envelop with commercial use, and 2.) The changes in allowing Accessory Dwellings to be not owner occupied.

Other

- Daphne passed out copies of a Vermont State document depicting the roles and responsibilities of Vermont Conservation Commissions and suggested that the Underhill Conservation Commission should create “Open Space and Resources Official Town Map” prior to the town changing ‘Land Use and Development Regulations’ proposed for next town meeting day.

Approval Minutes: September 11, 2017 minutes approved.

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 8: 11 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 10-13-17 draft