

**MINUTES**  
**Underhill Conservation Commission**  
**April 9, 2018**  
**Underhill Town Hall**

Present: Karen McKnight, Daphne Tanis, Nancy McRae, Betsy Chapek, Dan Steinbauer

Absent: Amy Golodetz, Laurie Graham, Pat Lamphere, Peter Hiskes

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed all and introduced evening's guest, Steven Webster, Underhill Energy Commission.

Public Comment: Guest present at meeting; Steve Webster. Member- Underhill Energy Commission(UEC), presented 'Memo to Select Board: re Solar' dated; March 27, 2018. Steve handed out copies to those present and asked for any comments. Karen said, I wish the gravel pit was an alternate, and not in addition"; all agreed.

Steve Webster suggested the UCC and UEC create liaisons to each others group. This has not been proposed to the Select Board. At this time the UCC has many projects demanding much attention, such as, Town Plan, CBCD Land Use Plan, CBCD Trails Surveys, Plant Sale, and Invasive Species mediation at CBCD.

Approval Minutes: March 2018 minutes were accepted as final with edits.

***Discussion:***

**UCC Organization – Reappointments**

Dan Steinbauer signed Town Non-disclosure document and returned to Karen. Next step, Select Board approval.

**Crane Brook Land Management Plan**

Members reviewed latest version edited by Amy. The following were edits and ideas suggested;

1. Daphne suggest the word **Land** be included in the title. Should read ' Crane Brook Conservation District Land Management Plan'.
2. Keep name Crane Brook Conservation District, as the CBCD is actually made up of 3 different non-contiguous areas.
3. Add to the Appendices the following:
  - a. Underhill Vermont Trails Handbook
  - b. Open Space in Statute – 24 V.S.A. p 4432(3) – if applicable to our plan and beneficial per Karen.

## Energy Committee Update

Steve referred to Peter Bennett's document handed out earlier to UCC meeting. Members in attendance reviewed document Peter Bennet used to update the Town Select Board. Steve asked for questions and comments. The consensus among UCC members was the gravel pit should be explored. The Underhill Conservation Commission members have the following concerns regarding the development of a solar array on the Crane Brook Conservation District site ;

1. Disturb Wildlife Habitat.
2. Potentially harm existing landfill cap.
3. Maintenance of solar array would further degrade landfill cap.
4. Negatively affect the value of one of Vermont's most beautiful scenic vistas.
5. Set a precedent for further development not desired at the Underhill Conservation site.

Steven then shared his assessment with the visit that was made with Nate and Peter to survey the old gravel pit site.

It seemed generally agreed, the gravel pit was a better site for a solar array. Steven declared, they would ask vendors to add landscaping, and concerns regarding the removal of panels at end-of-life panels, to their proposals. Three vendors have been asked to respond to the RFP.

**Next steps** that were discussed to be presented to the Select Board regarding consideration of the Gravel pit site are as follows:

1. Gather Walkthrough input from Nate Sullivan.
2. Select a vendor
3. Present information to Select Board
4. Solicit Vermont ANWR for approval and let process play out.
5. Once ANWR approval has been granted, develop a Plan for Educating and Gathering Opinion from Underhill citizens, mainly residents of Bear Town Road.
6. Present data to Select Board with survey results
7. Review with applicable Town departments and Commissions
8. Determine next steps as a result of the above actions.

## Underhill Town Plan

Karen to reconnect with Regina. Karen explained the tremendous amount of effort for updating the Town Plan. Karen mentioned looking into the process of securing finances to Town purchasing land.

Nancy recommended members review the Town Plan on-line, then reading her assessments and works document she sent out in preparation prior to next UCC meeting.

## **Underhill Conservation Commission 2018 Work Plan**

Karen presented the Work Plan document with dates due.

Plant Sale volunteers Betsy, Daphne and Karen. Betsy to do FPF posting. Daphne to put sandwich board out.

Ash EAB activities to be continued in summer/fall at Dan's direction.

### **Other**

Daphne to explore the possibility of having Forrest Hammond to do seminar on 'Living with Wildlife' in the fall 2018.

Suggested a possibility of another Tracking seminar.

To do – UCC to join the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions by July 1, \$50 fee required.

### **Up Coming Underhill Conservation Commission Events:**

April 28 – CBCD Walkthrough Trail Survey, meet 9:00 at Town Hall.

May 5 – Green-up Day

June 2 – UCC Plant Sale

June 3 – Invasive Species Workshop with Forester Ethan open to public. Alternate date June 27?

UCC related Events:

April 21 – Huntington Invasive Species Workshop

May 3 – Arbor Day

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 8: 18 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Tanis, 04-13-18 draft