

Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC)
Underhill Town Hall
March 18th, 2013

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

Trails Committee update - Trevor (per Karen):

Karen reported no new 'news' regarding the litigation issue on the Cranebrook Trail access. Per Trevor, who spoke to Brad Holden of the Underhill Select Board, it sounds as if this legal situation may prevent any significant movement on this trail being officially open to the public for at least a year's time.

Aquatic Organisms Project (Fish Passage) – Trevor update:

Trevor reported that Justin Kenny, the NRCD Winooski District Manager, has left his position and the new person is just starting. Trevor is optimistic that he/she is "on top of" the Aquatic Organisms Project. Regarding the Irish Settlement Road (ISR) redesign, (which is the first of the three culverts in Underhill to be completed under this Project), four land owners will be impacted by this work, so these owners will have to sign their approval before the 'ground can be broken' this Spring. When this is done and the work proceeds, Trevor will approach the nearby grammar school regarding educational workshops, field trips to the site, etc. Trevor reiterated the history of the funding of Aquatic Organisms Project. Reportedly, the USFW contributed to the funding; each culvert re-design will cost approximately \$30K, and the Town of Underhill is not providing any financial assistance, but will do 'in-kind', such the use of the Town road crew when needed.

Green-Up Day (update - Trevor):

Trevor stated he has spoken with Jim Beebe (a possible new member of UCC who was not present for this meeting). Jim indicated he is interested in being this year's coordinator for Green-Up Day! All of us present at this meeting happily agreed that his involvement would be most welcome!

Plant Sale / Invasive plants education/outreach workshop (June 6th):

Trevor and Barbara discussed whether UCC should go ahead and order the now-traditional blueberry plants to sell at the event. They agreed that the amount should be no more than last year (was it 60 or 90?). Barbara felt we should use Hartmann's Nursery (MI) again, in spite of the damaged plants received from them last year (box of 20). She will clearly remind them of this fact, and that we would appreciate it if they could monitor shipping more carefully this time. Barbara

offered to call the nursery and will ask Karen McKnight to receive them, as she has done in the past.

Regarding the invasive-species display at the Plant Sale, Trevor stated that it would be a great idea to scope out Moore Park (across from the Underhill Town Hall) and actually find invasives which are growing there. He thinks that there will be excellent examples 'in place', such as Wild Chervil, Honeysuckle, Barberry and more by early June.

Underhill's 250th Anniversary Celebration (also the weekend of June 6th):

Trevor suggested that UCC might focus on the environmental / ecosystem changes occurring over time in the Underhill area. Specifically during the time that the lumber mills became prominent with resultant deforestation having a major impact on our region. Trevor also mentioned that he might contact an environmental organization (such as the Nature Conservancy) to do a short presentation and /or provide relevant materials for folks to take with them regarding this topic. Perhaps we should put out something to this effect on the Underhill / other local Front Porch Forum(s)? Alternatively, we also discussed contacting former UCC member Faith Ingulsrud, to see if she might be interested in doing the presentation for us during the 250th Anniversary weekend.

Closing Remarks:

Trevor indicated he will contact Jim Beebe and suggest that he declare himself an "official" UCC member before our April meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Merianne O'Grady, UCC member
4/8/13 DRAFT