

Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC)  
Underhill Town Hall  
April 9, 2012

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

- **Opening remarks/Public comment:**

The 3/12 minutes were reviewed by the members. Corrections were noted, and minutes accepted, with corrections.

- **Large Habitat Blocks and Regional Connectivity:**

Trevor reported that there are no major updates on this project. He sent a note to Jens Hilke (Community Biologist/Planner, VT Fish & Wildlife) re: information about what other towns have been doing in this regard. Trevor also inquired about suggestions on how we might involve the Underhill town community and the Underhill town road crew in terms of next steps on this project.

- **Trails Committee report - (reported by Karen McKnight)**

Karen reported there are no updates at this time. The Committee is still awaiting settlement of the two legal cases pending on the Cranebrook area.

- **Cranebrook:**

**a. Legal:** Trevor reiterated the background on the two cases pending against the Underhill Trails Committee /Town of Underhill, and the VT Natural Resources Board/Town of Underhill's Selectboard by Dave D. and Jeff M. (Refer to 3/12 UCC minutes for details.)

**b. VT Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) - invasive project:** Trevor noted that the information he received regarding the VYCC states that their focus is on "watershed projects", and one of the areas we need assistance with in terms of invasive spp. (predominately Japanese knotweed) is not technically part of a watershed. But, since it is bordered on one side by a stream, this might be acceptable to VYCC's parameters. (Another area invaded by Japanese knotweed would probably not qualify, but the latter is not as over-taken as the former.) Trevor suggested that we also contact VYCC re: other projects, such as stream-bank erosion. Karen wondered if VYCC could assist in removing the left-over beaver dams, for example, along Mill Brook, where there was flooding post-Irene.

She reported that the beavers themselves had been removed, but that the dams are still there and could cause future problems if left in place. Trevor indicated that at this time, VYCC is looking more for projects that are 'ready to go' and are 'time-limited'. Karen thought that removal of the dams would be a one-day type project. Trevor will make an initial contact with VYCC re: if they can assist with possible projects.

- **Aquatic Organisms Project (Fish Project)**

Trevor reported that the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District and VT. Fish & Wildlife will present their three culvert designs to the Underhill Select Board sometime this week. These culverts would be along the following roads: Barrett Ln., Beartown Rd., and Irish Settlement Rd. The funding that was available for this project has been depleted at this point, but Trevor stated that there is probably funding through the VT. Fish and Wildlife. One of the three would be initiated, and it was discussed which is of highest priority. Trevor recalled that he had indicated the Irish Settlement Rd culvert (over Crane Brook). with its proximity to the school and as a possible educational component, should be considered first. He reassured the Commission members that he will e-mail us when the exact meeting-time with the Select Board on this project is determined.

- **2012 Planning**

**a. Green Up Day (May 5th):** Barbara Y. reported that the town of Jericho is really not interested in coordinating with us on Green Up Day. She has talked to Dawna (Underhill Town Administrator) about the possibility of having a worker from Underhill's Road Maintenance crew available when items are dropped off. Dawna indicated she will ask the Select Board for approval, and, if given, will contact the Road Crew to line up a worker from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Town Garage on May 5th.

We discussed the logistics of where and how many drop-off places we should have available on that day. It was agreed that the Town Garage has more equipment available on-site, which makes the collection more efficient. Also, as Barbara Y. pointed out, if we just utilize the garage as the only drop-off location, we will not have to pay \$100, as we did last year, for Clean Green to pick up the refuse in the dumpster(s) at the Flour Shop and Casey's. Barbara G. stated that

the amount of traffic / materials dropped off on the other side of town (the former Flour Shop on VT. 15) was quite light anyway. Members agreed that more than one location is not really needed this year, if the event is well advertised.

Barbara Y. will begin preparation by distributing Green Up recycling bags to the following locations : Underhill Country Store, Well's Corner Market and the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library.

She will also ask Dawna to post notices in various town locations and whether we can use the town's sandwich boards (not sure of there are two or three) for posting along/at:

VT 15 & River Rd,  
Park St. & VT 15  
Underhill Town Hall

We will have cookies and cider available at the town garage.  
(Barbara Y will be there to assist residents.)

**b. Plant Sale (June 2nd):** Barbara G. stated she had obtained Faith Ingulsrud's (former UCC member) Plant Sale task-list from last year. Faith had included all UCC members' assignments, both in preparation for and at the actual event. Barbara will be e-mailing this sheet to UCC members. Faith also forwarded Barbara both a short and long version of the Plant Sale announcement from last year, which was posted with the various local media. Barbara will update these and send to: Seven Days (for their calendar section), Mountain Gazette, Two-Towns website, the two local Front-Porch Forums websites, the Town of Underhill website, and to Dawna for posting around town.

Barbara G. stated she had recently contacted our blue-berry supplier for last year's sale (Hartmans in MI) to determine the time-frame for this year. For 2011's event, we ordered 3 varieties: Blue Gold, Blue Ray, and Northland. The quantities ordered were 20 plants of each. They were 2-year-old plants in 4" pots, and were sold to Underhill residents for \$5.00 each. This year the pots are 5" in diameter and \$3.55/ea wholesale, which is a \$0.60/ea increase from last year

Trevor suggested we charge Underhill residents \$6.00 each for blueberry plants this year - (an increase of \$1.00). All members were in favor. We also agreed to order 30 of each variety - an increase of ten per variety. The general observation was that the plants were gone within a half-hour after the sale began ( 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.) and

that if we ended up with un-sold plants, someone would have the option of buying them later. Trevor indicated we will have re-couped our costs anyway, and that people will buy, since blueberry plants generally sell for as much as three times this amount at local nurseries. Barbara G. will call Hartman's and place the order.

As last year, Karen agreed to have the blueberries delivered to her house.

- **New Business:**

Merianne stated she will be out of town for both Green-Up Day and the next UCC meeting.

- **Next UCC Meeting:** Monday, May 14, 7:00 P.M., Underhill Town Hall

**Adjournment:** 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Merianne O'Grady, UCC member  
4/9/12 DRAFT