

Montpelier Conservation Commission Meeting – February 9, 2017

7:00-9:00PM, City Hall Chambers

Present: Brenna, Emily, James, John, Nick, Charlie, Asa, Geoff, Becca, Roy

- John opened meeting at 7pm
- Agenda approved
- Minutes reviewed
  - Minutes are approved for Dec 2016, Jan 2017
- Combine outreach and stormwater projects
  - Combine into different types of projects to consolidate
- Colors for timeframe implementation
  - Red – larger effort
  - Green – continued effort
  - Blue – planning and prep
- Outreach should consider time of year and how it relates to what people are focused on
  - For example, no one is thinking about raking leaves or disposing of invasive plants in the winter
- DPW – already doing work on SW action
  - What can we do with them to help their efforts
  - Outreach, actual projects on the ground
  - Who can be the lead
    - Nick is interested
- Master plan could help with the green space on the river initiative
- Becca and Asa to help with website
  - Becca the lead?
  - Part of the meeting for how the website works and what we can put on
  - Energy commission has a blog, etc.
  - Site needs to be backfilled with reports
  - Maybe have a subcommittee to go over website
- iNaturalist – ongoing
  - Put on website
  - Field day for training
    - Public outreach
  - Can be combined with other initiatives
  - Charlie is leading this effort
- Farmers Market
  - How to get a table? (John)
  - Need to figure out what our priorities are for what we discuss at the market
  - James and John leads?
- Put leads on who will participate in each initiative
  - 0 – 3, people can decide which projects they are interested in
    - 0 – not interested
    - 1 – some interest (backup support)
    - 2 – interested but not in leading (heavy support)

- 3 – interested and interested in leading
- Better coordinate with other groups
  - When we finish the strategic planning process let them know what we are working on.
  - Geoff – parks and tree board
  - Taking a few minutes at other boards agendas to go over what we do
    - James lead?
  - Maybe take a few minutes in the beginning of CC to talk about other agendas
    - Becca?
- Clean water legislation could lead to more money for SW stuffs
  - Could tie into state complexes interaction
- Other CCs interaction
  - Start with iNaturalist projects with Charlie
- Development review for the new zoning regulations
  - What that would look like
  - When will we see them
  - What should we provide
  - Mike Miller should help map this out with us
- Invasive Plant
  - Geoff has been working for years on different invasive projects
  - Include education and outreach on social media and farmers market
  - Have CC members help with Geoff's initiatives
    - Setup work on a listserv
      - Geoff?
- WBS – stump dump is no longer a place to dump this area
  - Handling of material where to put it
  - How to manage protocols on BMPs for construction, or land clearing
  - Roy is interested
- Bioblitz 2
  - Ten year anniversary is 2018
  - Would be a great year to do this in 2018 because North Branch Nature Center is busy in 2017 with capital programs
  - John to keep this momentum going
- Look at completed inventories
  - Ongoing effort
  - To be put on the website
    - Consolidate from Roy, who has files
  - VLT, Stowe Land Trust, doing easement prospecting for Shutesville Hill on the Stowe-Waterbury line on VT 100
    - Could be used as a model for how easements are achieved in Montpelier
- Brett Engstrom
  - Does not normally have a contract
  - Sent a generic contract from League of Cities and Towns
  - Waiting on LiDAR
- Field proof remotely identified natural communities

- Ongoing with iNaturalist
- Stopped at Vernal Pools
- Roy – Change in leadership
  - 12 or so years on the commission
    - Feels that it is a good time to have new leadership and for formalize the Vice Chair role
  - James and John are interested in leadership positions and have spoken with the group and Roy
  - Open discussion on folks interested in the leadership position
  - Other leadership
    - Secretary and treasurer
    - Anyone interested in having one of these formal roles should voice this when they are ready
  - Motion to elect James Brady as Chair and John Jose as Vice Chair approved
    - James Brady approved as Chair
    - John Jose approved as Vice Chair
- Meeting closed at 9pm