

BURKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Attendance: Cathie Wheeler, Vice Chair, presiding
Sue Leskin
Mark Maghini
Terrance LaPointe
Joan Harlowe
Chris Manges

Absent: Ric Prescott, Chair, excused, attending Wastewater Management Meeting
Jeff Hoffer
Kristin Langlais

Mission of the BCC. Cathie read the old mission statement. We discussed whether or not a new mission statement was needed. There was no consensus on this issue.

New Members. Two of our new members were not present tonight, presumably because their names have not yet been presented to the Board of Selectmen.

Meeting Every Month. A discussion was held on this issue by the members present, and it was decided that meeting every month still met the needs of the membership.

Attendance at Other Meetings. There was a member of the BCC at the Buttonup Vermont meeting in St. Johnsbury, which was attended by about 30 people. Ric attended the Smart Growth meeting on the Ridge. Joan reported on the traffic study, which will be finalized around 3/10. A discussion ensued as to whether the BCC should have a member attend each of the Town Board meetings. It was decided that if individual members wish to attend, they will, but attendance would not be mandated.

The Burke Town Website. Sue agreed to look into how the website is coming along.

Maps: Mark reported on the maps of natural resources available at the NVDA. The Town also has the GIS Arc View software, but as far as we of the BCC are aware, no member of the Town staff has yet been trained on it. Mark has learned a lot from Matt Langlais about mapping, and will try to map some of Burke's natural resources for our next meeting. Also, we would like to view again the current use maps for the Town of Burke.

Feedback on our Program on Current Use/Conservation. Mark talked with Kelly Merrill of the PVLТ, Matt Langlais of Fish and Wildlife, and Tracy Zschau of the VLT, as to outcomes of our meeting. He was happy to report that six parcels of land within the Town of Burke were added to the current use program. Tracy said that she had received one contact from the meeting. Would we wish to do this again, suggestions included calling people in advance, offering rides to the meeting, having food at the meeting, adding an attorney to the panel for estate planning (?Jake Wheeler).

Brochure. Much interest is there for a brochure, but work schedules are tight for BCC members, and no single member can commit to flesh out a prototype. We should all come to the next meeting with more ideas for a simple, single page, folded brochure.

Library. The library at the Burke Clubhouse may have some room available to house a small conservation section. Sue has discussed this with the librarian, Charlotte, and will continue to pursue this, as time is available.

Information for the Town Report. BCC members were asked to please bring ideas to the next meeting. Cathie will share emails with Chris and Mark about this.

Minutes. Sue asked to be relieved of the Secretarial position within the BCC. She has been doing it for two years. Joan expressed some interest in the job, but was not willing to commit at this time.

At our next meeting it was proposed that we discuss the subject of officers, and terms of office.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Leskin, Secretary