

BURKE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OCTOBER 21, 2009

Attendance: Ric Prescott

**Sue Leskin
Cathie Wheeler
Mark Maghini
Terrance LaPointe
Chris Manges
Joan Harlowe**

Absent: Jeff Hoffer

Kristin Langlais

The meeting was called to order by chairman Ric Prescott.

A new prospective member joined the BCC tonight, and was asked by Ric to give us a brief bio. Terrance told us that he moved to Burke six years ago. He lives on the Sugarhouse Road. He and his wife lived in New Hampshire in both the Portsmouth, and Laconia areas, prior to coming to Burke, but his wife is from the Burke area, and they decided to return here. He is an active ice and mountain climber and runs a small organic compost business. He is from Scotland originally.

Ric explained briefly to all in attendance the main focus of the BCC, that we are charged with conserving resource for the Town of Burke. We have been given no enforcement powers. He spoke of programs at the town school, educational brochures, planning with respect to the Darling Ridge, and provision of information to townspeople on tax information and conservation easements.

New members proposed for the BCC will be brought up for approval at the next meeting of the selectboard, on the first Monday in November. Ric is planning to attend.

At the next meeting of the DRB a traffic study which was done with respect to the Darling Hill Road will be discussed.

Cathie reported that so far the BCC has spent \$66 on advertising for the current use workshop, and \$69.30 on postage for notices of the same meeting to landowners within the Town of Burke with over 25 acres.

Ric reported that he never heard back from the Buttonup people, perhaps because they have planned several large workshops in our area for the fall, one in Barnet, one in St. Johnsbury. Joan proposed the idea of sending school kids home with flyers directing folks to the workshop in St. Johnsbury. Cathie agreed to pursue this idea with the town school.

Ric met with the Smart Growth people, and they agreed to meet with a group of owners of land on the Darling Ridge. We were made aware that the Dowlings propose selling three lots next to the children's theater. A discussion of the idea of a bond issue, to procure land ensued. Ric thought it would be a good exercise for the BCC to pursue this, and he will contact Al Duey about it.

Other issues under discussion were utilization of school land (Chris), maps and fixing the bridge over the river on the school trail (Cathie), the trail system through the Darling Park, which Ross and Tamara did some work on (Chris).

Cathie reported on the proposed pamphlet information, that the pamphlet contain the mission statement of the BCC, a description of trails within the Town, a description of current members, current projects, pictures and links to the Town's resources.

Questions were asked about the progress of the Town of Burke official website, and when the annual meeting of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions will occur. Members will try to find out about both concerns.

Mark asked if we could follow up with the members of the various agencies which helped the BCC present the land use and conservation workshop. He volunteered to contact Tracy Zschau of the VLT, PVL, and Matt Langlais of Fish and Wildlife.

Ric closed the meeting with the recommendation that at our next meeting in November we discuss attendance at Burke board meetings, and the number of meetings of the BCC.

The meeting adjourned. Our next meeting will be held November 18, 2009 at the Burke Mountain Clubhouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Leskin, Secretary