

CORINTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES: August 10, 2015 (approved)

Present: Glynn Pellagrino (chair), Marian Cawley, Linda Tobin, Frank Roderick, Brad Wheeler (waiting approval from Selectboard), Guests Jason Fleury from NRCS and Mary Childs from White River Conservation District (WRCD)

Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:03 p.m.

Added agenda items: Cookeville Mall

July minutes were approved unanimously (Frank moved, Glynn seconded).

Riparian buffer discussion: Jason and Mary spoke at length about the different incentive programs available to landowners and farmers to plant a buffer zone of shrubs/trees. Under current Vermont law, farmers can harvest up to the edge of the stream bank but can't put manure within 10 feet of the stream. The latter number will change to 25 feet when new rules go into effect. For wildlife buffer, 35 feet of buffer is recommended. An additional advantage of such a buffer is that the water temperature will stay lower by being shaded, which is better for fish. / The main programs discussed were EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program); CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), a Farm Service Agency program; and Trees for Streams (the WRCD program). NRCS helps plan/design the buffer and pays on the finished product. They provide a cost estimate and will pay approximately 75% of that, in special cases (for landowners who are classified as "historically underserved"—those who are new farmers or minority groups) closer to 90%. / WRCD is 75 years old and was started BY farmers/landowners. Their eligibility standards are not as high as those of NRCS. Cost share is 90%. They like to get school and community groups involved in the planting and maintenance process. / Farmers/landowners who might be interested in planting a buffer would contact NRCS or WRCD either directly or through the CCC, and the agencies would send representatives to do a site visit. Based on that visit, the agencies would help farmers/landowners choose the best program for them. Our role (as CCC members) is to facilitate the contact between farmers/landowners and NRCS/WRCD. Both agencies left brochures and business cards with us. (Mary only had one business card, so Glynn kept it with the CCC important documents.) / There was some discussion after Mary and Jason left about the main piece of land we have concerns about—who owns it (Tom Loftus, Buonanduccis, and Slacks, we think), who works it, whether they'd be receptive. It seems to make sense to contact these folks directly.

Bottles: Linda picked up \$269 for an approximately six-week period. Marian (and Rick) did the unplanned bottle collection on August 8 (since our meeting was postponed by one week).

Bottle duty: Brad, 8/15; Ginny 8/22; Frank, 8/29; Glynn, 9/5; Geoffrey Hoots (community member), 9/12. (We planned into September, since our next meeting will be postponed because of Labor Day.)

New members: Gabe has officially resigned his position on the CCC. Frank spoke to the Town Forest Committee about their interest in joining the CCC now that the forest plan is in place. Courtney Haynes is a definite no, Kevin Eaton is leaning away from doing it, and Dina Dubois is thinking about it. We definitely need new members, so Marian will revisit inviting Kevin Buchanan to come to a meeting, with

hopes of recruiting him. Meanwhile, Frank will check with the Selectboard that confirming Brad Wheeler as a new CCC member is on their agenda.

Cookeville Mall: We are the custodians of the Mall, responsible for assigning someone to be volunteer coordinator and for making sure that things are running smoothly. Margaret and John Loftus have been taking care of things this summer, since they are there selling their garden produce and liaising with their CSA customers, but there has been no official coordinator for about 2 months. We need to get someone to do that. The Mall is open 10-12 on Saturdays. In the winter, it is 11-12 (only 1 hour). Marian and Linda will send out an LRN notice requesting volunteers and reminding people that the Mall is a swap shop—they can bring stuff they no longer want and swap it for stuff OTHER people no longer want.

Future project possibilities: Ted Levin on rattlesnakes. / Program on new composting and recycling law. / Laura Waterman on her experience with trail design and maintenance and the White and Green Mountains generally. / Mary Holland. / Sue Morse (Keeping Track). Marian will contact both Ted Levin and Laura Waterman, ask them what kind of presentation they might do and how much they would charge.

Next meeting: September 10, 2015, at 7:00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 (Marian moved, Brad seconded).

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Cawley