

Conservation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, November 28th, 2007
7pm - Waitsfield Town Office

Present: Mark Grosby, Elizabeth Cadwell, Paul Hartshorn, Ted Joslin, Leo Laferriere, Chris Loomis, Spencer Potter, and Kate Williams

Absent: Phil Huffman

1. The Minutes from the 10/17/07 meeting were reviewed. Paul Hartshorn motioned to approve the Minutes, and Ted Joslin seconded the motion.
2. Public input regarding the Wu Ledges was welcomed. Since there were no members of the public present, the commission moved forward with their adoption of the Rules for Wu Ledges. Mark Grosby motioned to adopt the rules, Ted Joslin seconded the motion, and the plan was approved.
3. Signage for the Wu Ledges was discussed. Elizabeth Cadwell recommended that the Commission carefully consider the materials used on-site, as this might set the tone for how the property is treated. She mentioned that the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's signs were effective in this regard and suggested that Kate Williams provide further information. Kate suggested that we explore the "izone" in Texas as well as "Wood and Wood," which is located locally.

Action: Kate and Elizabeth will work together to generate options and pricing.

4. Mark Grosby reported that he is still awaiting word from the Mad River Riders regarding the proposed Trail Management Agreement.

Action Item: Mark will contact the group and seek feedback.

5. The Northfield Ridgeline parcels were discussed further. Chris Loomis reported that access from Northfield is still limited but that alternate entrances are being explored. The natural community inventory of the Scrag Parcel was completed by the Audubon Society of Vermont and shared with Conservation Commission Members via Leo Laferriere. Elizabeth Cadwell is interested in ensuring that this information is shared with the public and will actively pursue educational opportunities for the community for 2008.

Action: Leo Laferriere, Chris Loomis, and Spencer Potter will continue to work on access issues.

Action: Elizabeth Cadwell will send a thank you note to Steve at Audubon Vermont and share our appreciation of their hard work in crafting the Forest Bird Habitat Assessment.

6. Liza Walker appeared briefly to ask if we had further questions about the proposed Vermont Land Trust Easement. It was requested that the Commission and Liza Walker both spend some time reviewing the Forest Service Guide to Forest Management so that

the two could be compared. It is hoped that an agreeable compromise can be reached in the near future. Discussion was put on hold until the next meeting. Liza provided materials pertaining to Riparian Buffers, but it was determined that the Commission Members had not had adequate time for review. The Commission thanked Liza for coming and requested that she come again in January for further discussion.

7. Leo Laferriere presented the materials generated by Audubon Vermont. The Bird Habitat Assessment is completed, but we are still awaiting the final version of the Natural Communities' Inventory.

Action Item: Leo will encourage Audubon Vermont to complete the current task and request that they also undertake an inventory of the Wu Ledges.

Action Item: Elizabeth Cadwell will seek grant funding and support for educational efforts.

8. The next Conservation Commission Meeting is planned for Wednesday, January 23rd at 7pm.
9. The Commission agreed that it would maintain the same Budget in 2008.
10. Waitsfield has the option to buy additional trails that are adjacent to the Wu Ledges.

Action Item: Mark Grosby will contact the Select Board and propose that they purchase the additional property.

11. Kate Williams reminded the Commission that we need to respond to the Kingsbury Farm community initiative in Warren.

Action Item: Kate will send a letter stating that although the Commission supports the efforts of the community in this undertaking, that we are unable to lend financial support at this time.

12. Mark Grosby adjourned the meeting at 8pm.