

Topsham Conservation Commission

Minutes approved 01-11-2022

December 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Topsham Town Office and via Zoom.

In attendance (all participants remote due to COVID19 community case counts except Victor Langelo - attended from the Town Office): Audie Arbo, Rod Melanson, Shana Stewart Deeds, Victor Langelo, Steve Pelletier, Raija Suomela. BTLT Guests: Jeff Nelson, Keisha Payson, Carla Rensenbrink, Sandy Stott, Angela Twitchell, Margaret Wilson. Meetings open to all, please contact the Topsham Planning Office if you'd like to join us.

I. Approval of Nov 9th Minutes.

TCC discussed and edited the Nov. Minutes. A motion was made by Steve to accept them as edited, Victor seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

II. Year end review. How did we do?

Victor provided a written TCC Annual report to the Selectboard in 2021.

Paper streets review completed - submitted to Town Manager in May 2021.

A. Conservation easement monitoring. TCC completed easement monitoring at Pleasant Woods, and created a site visit report in October 2021. In 2022 we will need to visit the other two Town easements - Mallett Woods, the Glades. TCC will revise the monitoring template and use it on the other two properties.

B. Town properties forest management update. Steve prepared a draft that we will review at the Jan. 2022 meeting. Victor will invite Ed and Pam and Rod.

C. Outreach. Newspaper feature story. Social media postings. TCC completed Facebook postings and added followers. We have 170 people that have liked our page.

D. Invasive Species. Work day at Head of Tide with TCC and Bowdoin students. Raija worked on invasives through the year in various locations. TCC planted native shrubs for wildlife above the parking area on the slope. Foreside field will need attention in 2022.

E. Budget for 2021-22. FY July - June. TCC needs to solidify some SOPs for spending and budgeting and needs a bit more data on conservation accounts. We are working on draft language for spending from the conservation accounts. Next step is to workshop the in lieu fee language with the Selectboard. We should also work on language for spending habitat mitigation fees.

Action items:

1. Workshop in lieu fee process language with Selectboard.
2. Habitat mitigation fee process, how to prioritize spending.
3. Review our reporting obligations to the Selectboard and Town Manager. Are quarterly check-ins required? Generally TCC gives updates as needed, formal end of year

summary to the Selectboard in the fall, and info for the Town Manager report based on FY.

- F. Coordination with comp plan implementation committee. Ongoing.
- G. Update to the 2010 Natural Areas Plan. TCC needs to write a statement of purpose, and check in with Judy. Ongoing.
- H. Facilitate education workshops on composting and proper methods of recycling. Ongoing.
- I. Other accomplishments? None discussed.

III. Updates

Andrew is leaving Topsham at the end of Dec. for a new position.

IV. Agenda items for January 11, 2022

- A. Annual Plan for 2022
- B. Forest Mgmt Draft (invite Ed and Pam)
- C. Comp Plan implementation matrix

Motion to adjourn at 6:01 made by Victor, Shana seconded, all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

V. Adjourn for workshop with BTLT.

Welcome BTLT lands committee members. BTLT and TCC discussed conservation priorities and opportunities for the coming year.

The potential NAP plan update is good place to talk about priorities together in 2022.

Workshop ended at 6:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary, Shana Deeds.