

NEW HAVEN, VERMONT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 AT 7PM VIA ZOOM

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M. via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 857 8303 2224
Passcode: 108304

Attendees:
Dave Lewis
Polly Darnell
Ellie de Villiers
Marianne Eaton

I. Review and approve the minutes from 01/15/2025

APPROVED.

II. Honorarium policy.

a. Discussion and approval.

Research of other commissions found that \$200-\$250 is typical of what some other groups offer. \$250-\$300 is acceptable to our group. But if they insist on a higher amount there may be wiggle room. Haven't upped the amount in the CC budget in a few years. Could ask for an increased budget in October prior to the town budget proposal in November.

Approved Honorarium policy : Should the presenter accept an honorarium, the offer shall begin at \$250 but can go up to \$300. The Commission will allow up to \$400 for an exceptional speaker at the discretion of the booker without needing to seek CC approval at a future commission meeting.

III. GOALS FOR 2025

a. Community Values project update.

In 2024 we discussed collaborating with VCRD (VT Council for Rural Development) to facilitate a community values survey but New Haven was bumped to 2025 but now is not even on their schedule. The same kind of survey was performed In 2015 called the PLACE PROJECT and

was discovered in the library. There are some ideas in this project about what was important to the town survey takers. Dave will send the pertinent pages to the committee and we will return to this discussion in May. We talked about collaborating with New Haven Neighbors on a survey, and they were in touch with VCRD who let them down. Possibilities for collaboration with New Haven Neighbors may come up again sometime.

b. Armchair Naturalist speakers.

Ethan Tapper to speak about his book, HOW TO LOVE A FOREST.

WEDNESDAY, April 16 , Town Office at 7PM

Jim Andrews will lead a group at the Watershed on Saturday, June 14.

c. Conservation Commission Connectivity.

The Conservation Resource Group: <https://sites.google.com/acrpc.org/ccrg>

Discussion tabled due to Susan's absence.

d. Letter To Addison County Senators. Sent from the Salisbury CC for discussion

Re: Proposed Rollbacks to Global Warming Solutions Act and Renewable Energy Standards.

Dave will follow up with Heidi Willis, Salisbury, to see if this is still pertinent.

It is not out of character for this group to write commentary on behalf of the environment as climate issues are so important to conservation. Will support letter campaigns on certain topics as long as they remain nonpartisan. We want to express our support for climate legislation and would like to know what they're working on if the previous act is repealed.

Dave might send a more general letter to legislators saying we support efforts to address climate change, without getting into specifics.

At State level:

Our Senators and Reps:

- **Sen Steve Heffernan** sheffernan@leg.state.vt.us
- **Sen Ruth Hardy** rhardy@leg.state.vt.us
- **Rep Herb Olson** holson@leg.state.vt.us
- **Rep Mari Cordes** mcordes@leg.state.vt.us

Governor Phil Scott:

Governor Phil Scott (802)-828-3333 tinyurl.com/2ef3bw5n (plug into browser)

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Google Drive technical issues

Unresolved at the meeting but Marianne will continue to work on the issue and alert members.

Resolution: All folders have been shared with those on the committee.

Instruction:

- Log in to Google through personal emails
- go to “My Drive”
- look in “Shared with Me” folder for all links to documents.

b. Accepted the resignation of Susan Smiley. Will search for another member.

c. AVCC Tiny Grants will be handed out in 2025. \$700 grants. Application is due April 18, 2025.

Need to be a member to apply. \$50 registration is needed to join. Members approved to join.

Grant Idea: game cameras to be signed out at the library.

Marianne will get in touch with other CC groups to see if they found lending out Trail Cams successful.

Connect with Heidi Willis in Salisbury or Conservation Resource Group

Discussion Board with other CCs: <https://sites.google.com/acrpc.org/ccrg/discussion-board>

IV. MOVE TO ADJOURN

8:07pm