

NEW HAVEN, VERMONT  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2024 at 7 PM

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89837102942?pwd=O3vwdFnPV1B3kA9jUjb2ldGhx1C6Mz.1>

Meeting ID: 898 3710 2942

Passcode: 452014

In Attendance:

David Lewis  
Susan Smiley  
Ellie de Villiers  
Polly Darnell  
Marianne Eaton

**I. Review and approve the minutes from 11/20/24.**

**MINUTES APPROVED.**

**II. Wildlife Crossing Project:**

- a. The work done to prepare our available data for use by the Planning Commission involved the efforts and talents of all commission members. A job well done! We will continue to collect information moving forward until this time in 2025. This mapping effort was a training run for the eventual conclusion of our two year project.

**III. GOALS FOR 2025**

- a. Community outreach and values mapping. Susan to discuss the Addison County Conservation Commission Resource Group.

Discussion:

Addison County Regional Planning Commission is working towards creating a website that all conservation commission members could use as a shared resource repository. This website will launch officially in January.

Pages include events calendar, a discussion board, a resource library and contacts for each town commission.

One example: Otter Creek Audubon Cabin Fever lecture series can be added to this repository.

Marianne will sign up with Hannah Andrew. Hannah's email: [handrew@acrpc.org](mailto:handrew@acrpc.org)  
NHCC google account can gain access to log in. Not open to the general public.

Other resources: Vermont Coverts puts out a weekly email.  
Vermont Coverts is a peer-to-peer community of landowners, professionals and others learning from and supporting each other to enhance wildlife habitats through sound forest management.

<https://vtcoverts.org/index.html>

b. Armchair Naturalist speakers. Ideas from Polly

[Naturalist Talk/Book Series](#)

Contact Alexis Mychajliw from Middlebury College to discuss the national wildlife survey in hopes to have an in-person “Armchair Naturalist” presentation in January pending their schedule.

Personal choice to do Zoom or in person.

Choice 2: Jaclyn Comeau, Bear Biologist

Choice 3: Jens Hilke on Bobcat/Coyote

Marianne will look to book speaker for January.

c. Other Business:

Community Values:

Fish and Wildlife helps towns develop conservation plans as does the VT Council for Rural Development.

<https://www.vtrural.org/>

After looking at both resources, we believe the VT Council for Rural Development (Community Conversations) offers a better fit for New Haven’s goals.

The newly formed group, New Haven Neighbors, has asked to be named toward assistance to participate in community values endeavors.

They have facilitated topics over a 3 months process to develop priorities and action plans. Pick 4 topics to work on and develop a task force to work on the topic.

Short term goal: Look for a similar town profile to learn what they have done.

Motion made to explore a partnership with New Haven Neighbors group.

Dave and Susan to work on this project.

#### **IV. MOVE TO ADJOURN**

**7:54pm**

Next regular NHCC meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2025. 7:00pm