

# **New Haven Conservation Commission**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**July 12, 2018**

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the New Haven Conservation Commission was called to order at 6:30 pm by Susan Smiley.

### **Present**

Susan Smiley, Allen Karnatz, Cheryl Mitchell, David Lewis, Dean Percival – members.

Steve Libby – Vermont River Conservancy, Kristen Underwood – Bristol Conservation Commission, Kate Lampton – Charlotte Land Trust

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was changed and approved. Discussion concerning the Tree Contest and Summer/Fall Conservation walks were tabled until the next meeting to allow time for guest discussions.

### **Discussions**

- Kate Lampton discussed the history of Charlotte's Conservation Fund which is funded by the town, by taxation, every year. The funds, by guidelines, can be used for acquisition of rights to lands, fee simple ownership, reasonable project costs and options to purchase. She emphasized the need for leverage in the presentation of potential projects to the town by forming partnerships from other sources and conservation projects. Consistency with the existing Town Plan is important as well as a projects location relative to that plan. She stated that it is important that any proposed project include something that benefits the town other than just "Land Conservation" – wildlife habitats, natural areas, scenic views as well as recreational and cultural resources and amenities. What is the value of any neighborhood or other matching contributions to a project – leverage. Continual education of the Selectboard is also essential. She finished her discussion with a brief review on the application process for projects submitted to the Board of Selectmen.
- Steve Libby from the Vermont River Conservancy made a presentation concerning the formation of a New Haven River Collaborative between the towns of New Haven, Bristol and Lincoln. This initial opportunity is funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The objective of this collaboration is for flood Adaptation, Water Quality Enhancement, Recreational Access and Ecological Restoration. VRC will organize and facilitate semi-annual meetings to discuss issues, review existing projects, and solicit or initiate new projects. VRC will provide overall coordination for the first three years, will partner with other commissions, municipalities, schools, individuals for identified projects and will provide, as appropriate, grant writing, fiscal management and project management. A vote was taken to join this collaborative and it passed unanimously. He also mentioned that there was a video available produced by Gabe Andrews about the New Haven River. He will make this available if asked.

- Kristen Underwood from the Bristol Conservation Commission discussed the formation of Bristol's and Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund. In 2011, at Bristol's Annual Town Meeting, an article was approved to set up a Reserve Fund with \$10,000 to be raised by taxation. She provided a printout of the criteria used to spend this money which has been replenished to some degree every year since its inception. She also handed out a printout of Richmond's overview and guidelines for their Conservation Reserve Fund which is also funded by taxation.

### **New Business**

Dean will follow up with the Board of Selectman concerning the legal status of the Commission in light of a discussion that took place at one of their meetings.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm by Susan Smiley. The next general meeting's time and place was not discussed.

Minutes submitted by:           Dean Percival, 7/13/2018