

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday January 7, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(Approved)

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: Bob Fahey – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Leslie Gauff and Drew Clymer of the Stowe Mountain Bike Club

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of December 3 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Tom reported that three farmers including Paul Percy have contacted the town expressing interest in leasing the Mayo Farm agricultural fields.

Tom reported that the Selectboard will discuss two capital projects for which funding had been approved but the projects never commenced; within the Mayo Farm Polo recreation zone and a skate park on Memorial Park.

Cady Hill Forest / Stowe Mountain Bike Club

Leslie and Drew from SMBC were present to discuss their interests in CHF. SMBC was designated by the town to be the mountain bike trail stewards for CHF.

They stated that the most important SMBC goals were to create a plan for long term sustainable trail maintenance, provide education for the public, grow their membership and sponsorships and sponsor appropriate events on the area trail network. They have a dedicated board. They noted the tremendous growth in the network and use over the years, especially within CHF. All recently constructed trails were constructed to International Mountain Bike Association standards, which emphasize environmental sensitivities. They said the Stowe area trail network is becoming known region wide, with many users visiting Stowe specifically for the trails. This is having an important economic impact.

CC members brought up a number of issues, including winter (fat) tire biking policies, trail restrictions in deer wintering areas, necessity to be compliant with the management plan once it is completed, control over trail use when trails are wet, sponsored events and the potential for their requiring exclusive trail use, impacts of heavy use on the trails, impacts upon and sensitivities towards walkers and hikers, and the potential need for annual reporting to the town.

Some of these issues will be incorporated into the CHF management plan.

SMBC is requesting a \$6,000 community services grant from the town. The CC agreed to write a letter of support for their request.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. January 21, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday January 21, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(Approved)

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Steve Gerard

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the Jan 7 meeting were not available.

Tom reported that the Selectboard approved SMBC's funding request. Tom will administer the funding rather than the town making an outright grant.

Candidates for the annual Conservationist of the Year were discussed.

Bob Fahey has given notice that he is leaving the Conservation Commission.

Emerald Ash Borer

Steve Gerard appeared before the CC to discuss the EAB. The EAB is a green beetle native to the Far East that was first discovered in Detroit MI in 2002. Adult females deposit eggs on the bark of ash trees. After hatching, the larvae chew through the bark to the phloem and cambium where they feed and develop. They take two years to mature. During this time they damage the tree by girdling it. It is highly invasive. After twelve years of infestation the vast majority of ash trees die. It has not been sighted in Vermont yet, but has been sighted in NY and NH. It is currently in the upper eastern mid-west. There are three ways to deal with it, do nothing, cut the tree down and burn it, or use insecticides. Scientists are looking for other remedies, such as predators and resistant mutations.

Stowe village is currently dominated with green ash, as it is resistant to salt, making it a good street tree species. Steve is concerned about the long term impacts on the town if the EAB invades the area. Ash comprises about 7% of the trees in Vermont forests.

The CC agreed that EAB could pose a threat to the aesthetics of the town and to forest ecology if it successfully invades. The CC agreed with the following:

1. The CC should better understand the likelihood and threat of an EAB invasion before it takes any action
2. If the threat is in fact significant, educate and outreach to the public to solicit ideas as to how to approach the issue
3. A thorough inventory of ash trees within the village and other public spaces would be valuable

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. February 4, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday February 4, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(approved)

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Steve Gerard

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the Jan 7 and Jan 21 were approved as amended.

Gar reported that the homeowner upon whose land the Catamount Trail traverses at the ridgetop separating Sterling Valley from the West Branch Valley has agreed to allow a reroute of the trail across his property. The details are to be determined.

Gar reported that there have been no issues with parking in Sterling Valley. More people are using the Sterling Forest parking area, alleviating congestion at the Sterling Gorge parking area.

Tom reported that the Selectboard has approved \$6,000 in funding for Stowe Mountain Bike Club. Instead of a community services grant, the funds will be administered by Tom on an as needed basis.

The CC voted to give the Conservation of the Year award to Charlie Berry.

Cady Hill Forest Management Plan

The CC continued discussion and editing of the Cady Hill Forest management plan.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. March 4, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building. The CC decided to cancel the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 18 due to unavailability of the meeting room.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday March 4, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(Final)

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, David Jaqua, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore –
Members Absent: Christine McGowan – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Paul Percy

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the February 4 were approved as amended. The CC did not hold a meeting on February 18.

Gar reported on some issues relating to the Sterling Ridge trail. They will be discussed at a future meeting. He would also like to schedule a site walk to the Sterling Forest during April before the leaves come out.

Andre reported that the Back Country Alliance, a back country ski advocacy group, is interested in creating skiable glade areas off the Sterling Ridge Trail. Most of the work will be on state land.

Mayo Farm Agricultural Lease

The CC reviewed two proposals to lease the Mayo Farm agricultural fields, one from Paul Percy and the other from Ted Keith. Mr. Keith was unable to attend. Mr. Percy was present.

Mr. Percy said his farming operations are subject to a medium-sized-farm permit from the State of Vermont. He is in good standing with the provisions of the permit. Mr. said he would continue to work with the town to allow for 25' buffers along water courses, and provide a location for the July 4 firework show. His bid is for \$3,500 per year for all of the fields.

Mr. Keith is not required to hold the permit due to his smaller sized operation. His bid is for \$3,800 for four of the fields.

The CC noted that Mr. Keith's offer for the four fields would create a maintenance requirement upon the town for the other agricultural fields.

Mr. Percy agreed to increase his offer to \$3,800 per year.

Motion: Recommend to the Selectboard that the Mayo Farm Agricultural Fields lease be awarded to Paul Percy for \$3,800 per year. Moved by David, seconded by Robert, passed unanimously.

Cady Hill Forest Management Plan

The CC continued discussion and editing of the Cady Hill Forest management plan.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. March 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday March 18, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(Preliminary)

Members present: Gar Anderson, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore
– Members Absent: Andre Blais – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Kristen Sharpless

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the March 4 were approved as amended.

Gar reported he performed limb trimming maintenance within Sterling Forest.

Tom reported the Selectboard awarded the Mayo Farm contract to Paul Percy for \$3,500.

Tom reported that the CC is required to elect officers at the next meeting.

SLT - Mayo Farm Vegetation Planting and other issues

Kristin Sharpless from Stowe Land Trust was present to discuss several issues.

Water Quality - Kristin reported that Mike Ingalis from the Intervale Conservation Nursery approached SLT about the possibility of doing some riparian planting in Stowe. Mayo Farm may be an appropriate property. They have funding and volunteers from Keurig Green Mountain to do riparian planting projects free of charge. Tom presented a map indicating possible location on Mayo Farm along secondary water courses. The CC will do a site visit at a future meeting.

Kiosk Signs - SLT is planning to install informational signs at each of its owned properties. Each will have a similar design and content. Kristen is proposing that the town install similar signs at its conservation properties. The CC agreed this would be a good idea. Sterling Forest, Cady Hill Forest and Sunset Rock were identified. Adams Camp, which is owned by Trapp Family Lodge, is also a possibility.

Invasive Species – SLT would like to partner with the CC to eradicate or control Japanese barberry within Cady Hill Forest. The infestation is currently centered in the vicinity of the Velco power station and power line. The CC thought this would be a good idea. Two events could be planned. The first is a survey of the area to assess the extent of the problem and build community awareness. The second is a workday with volunteers to perform eradication activities.

Marina reminded the CC that the barberry at the March of Dimes monument on Mayo Farm still needs to be replaced with a native species.

Cady Hill Forest Management Plan

The CC postponed discussion and editing of the Cady Hill Forest management plan.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will take place on Wed. April 1, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday April 1, 2015
Mayo Farm/Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes
(Preliminary)

Members present at site visit: Gar Anderson, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore, Catherine Drake. Guests present: Mike Ingalls, Paul Percy, Ryan Percy, Caitrin Maloney, Kristen Sharpless. Town: Tom Jackman. **Members present at meeting:** Gar Anderson, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore, Andre Blais, Christine McGowan, Catherine Drake. Absent: David Jaqua. Town: Tom Jackman

Mayo Farm Site Visit

Three sites were investigated for a possible riparian planting project in partnership with the Intervale Conservation Nursery who would provide 300 plants and volunteer workers. **Site #1** is an intermittent stream between Fields H and F. This was deemed not suitable because the fields are pastured and it would take a great deal of fencing to keep the cows from destroying the vegetation. **Site #2** is a stream that separates Fields F and I. Because it already has a well established buffer of wetland vegetation greater than 25 feet, it was agreed that to focus on Site #3. **Site #3** bisects Fields D and E, which are both planted in corn and receive fertilizer and manure. The consensus of those present was that this is a good site to focus on because of the corn fields, the obvious erosion that has happened and proximity to the West Branch.

The meeting was reconvened at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Riparian Planting Discussion

The group discussed the merits of the project and agreed that this was a good opportunity that shouldn't be passed up, but that Paul Percy's concern about trees growing too tall and shading crops should be addressed by planting shrubs and low-growing trees. Mr. Anderson motioned to move forward with the project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blais and passed unanimously.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes of the March 18th meeting were passed unanimously on a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Drake.

Mr. Jackman expressed concerns about having volunteers manually pull or cut Japanese Barberry, given the proven link between the plant and deer ticks. He suggested that perhaps the best thing this year would be for David to contact GMP about the power line and to map the extent of the Barberry outside the power line as part of a training for SLT volunteer property monitor and think about hiring someone to apply chemicals or use a propane torch.

Mr. Anderson explained that he will be working with VT Forest, Parks & Recreation to see if they would allow the Rushp Sterling Ridge Trail to be improved for summer use.

Election of Officers

Mr. Jaqua was unanimously elected Secretary on a motion by Mr. Blais, seconded by Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore was unanimously elected Chair and Ms. McGowan was elected Vice Chair on a motion by Mr. Blais, seconded by Ms. Drake.

Future meetings:

April 15: Green Up Day and Cady Hill Forest Management Plan

May 6: EAB Plan and demonstration of ANR Forest Stewardship atlas

May 20: Sterling Forest site visit

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10

Respectively submitted by Tom Jackman

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday April, 15 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Robert Moore Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Gar Anderson, Catherine Drake, Andre Blais – Members Absent: David Jaqua– Town: Tom Jackman

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the April 1 meeting were approved on a motion by Christine, seconded by Marina.

Gar reported that he cut a large blowdown in Sterling Forest that was blocking the ski trail and that there is a broken bridge on the 8 Bridges Trail.

Tom reported that the riparian planting project is scheduled for Saturday May, 9 at 9:30 am. Rob, Christine, Gar, Marina and Andre all indicated that they would attend.

Green Up Day

Tom handed out the list of GUD tasks with a sign-up for members. Marina explained the logistics of the event.

FY'15 Work Plan

Tom went over the work plan for the remainder of FY'15. There was a long discussion about the proposed erosion control work for the Marston Trail and Upper Gorge Loop. Tom provided letters from Vermont Land Trust and from Stowe Land Trust. The Commission decided to follow the recommendations of the letters and hire a professional to install waterbars in appropriate locations to help shed water off the trails into the woods rather than directly into watercourses.

Cady Hill Forest Management Plan

The CC wrapped up its review and update of the Cady Hill Forest Management Plan after making a few small edits and additions. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the draft plan to the Selectboard on a motion by Christine, seconded by Marina.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jackman.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday May 6, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Charles Lusk, Danielle Fitzko, Melinda Scott, Steve Gerard

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Emerald Ash Borer

Danielle Fitzko, from the Vermont Urban Forestry Program, was present to discuss the possible development of an Emerald Ash Borer preparedness plan for Stowe. She distributed handouts to CC members and the audience. The EAB issue has been discussed at previous meetings.

She said that according to current ANR thinking, the threat of an EAB infestation in Vermont is very high. The EAB is currently in NY, MA, NH and Quebec. It will likely come to Vermont from transported firewood. Once it is reported in Vermont, it will take only two to three years at best to reach Lamoille County. Ten years subsequent to that date, most ash trees will have become compromised.

She said many towns are preparing contingency plans. Tom had distributed a plan developed by the Town of Johnson Vermont to the CC via email. Steve Gerard had a copy of the Middlebury College plan.

David made a motion to form a subcommittee of the CC to explore whether Stowe should develop a plan, and if so develop one to be presented back to the CC. Christine seconded. Motion carried. David Jaqua, Charles Lust and Steve Gerard volunteered to serve on the committee.

Forest Stewardship Atlas

Melinda Scott, from the Lamoille County Planning Commission, was present to give a demonstration of the Agency of Natural Resource's online Forest Stewardship Atlas. The atlas is a browser based mapping application that allows users to overlay area maps of varying scale and extent with various natural resource information, such as wetlands and forest type. The application could be useful to help the CC assess the natural resource values of town-owned properties.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the April 15 were approved as amended.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will be a non-deliberative site walk to Sterling Forest on Wed. May 20, 2015 at 5:00. Meet at the Sterling Forest parking lot.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. June 3, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday June 3, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: Christine McGowan – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Minutes of the May 6 were approved as amended. There were no minutes for May 20 because the CC conducted a site visit to Sterling Forest.

David suggested that the CC evaluate a more formal stewardship process for Town-owned conservation properties at a future meeting.

David reported that he cleared a significant number of blowdowns at Sunset Rock.

David reported that a new version of the Green Mountain Byway Recreation Guide was at the printer.

Gar reported that SFGNAT was recognized by Trip Advisor.

Tom reported that Vermont Audubon is willing to conduct a bird assessment for Cady Hill Forest for a small fee. CC members thought this was a good idea. **Motion:** Authorize expenditure up to \$300 for a bird assessment at CHF by Vermont Audubon. MSP.

Tom reported that Hardy Avery will commence drainage work on the Marston trail within Sterling Forest on June 22.

Tom reported that due to establishment of new trails in CHF, the Cady Road entry to the property has increased use. He suggested that a kiosk might be appropriate there. He also reported that he would like to install addition signs within Sterling Forest. **Motion:** Authorize Tom to us unexpended funds to purchase a kiosk for the CHR entryway to CHF and for trail signs for Sterling Forest. MSP.

Work Plan for FY 2016

The CC spend the remainder of the meeting discussing the 2016 work plan.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will be a non-deliberative site walk to Mayo Farm on Wed. June 17, 2015 at 5:00. Meet at the parking lot behind the community church.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. July 1, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday July 15, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: Christine McGowan – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

There were no minutes for June 17 because the CC conducted a site visit to Mayo Farm.

There were no minutes for July 1 because the CC did not hold a meeting.

David reported that he went on a site walk to Sunset Rock with representatives from Stowe Land Trust, which holds a conservation easement on the property. The purpose of the visit as to assess conditions on the property.

Robert reported that he had contact with someone from the Morrisville Conservation Commission. They discussed the possibility of holding a joint meeting.

Emerald Ash Borer

David gave an update on the EAB preparedness plan. The subcommittee met in June and devised a strategy for creating the plan. The next step is to write a draft.

Kiosks – Cady Hill Forest

David presented a mock-up of a kiosk sign for Cady Hill Forest. Commissioners will review the text and make recommendations for additions and edits to be discussed at a future meeting.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will be a non-deliberative site walk to a town owned property along Gold Brook Road on Wed. August 5, 2015 at 5:00. Meet at the site.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. August 19, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday September 2, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: Andre Blais – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the last deliberative meeting held on July 15 meeting were not available.

There were no minutes for August 5 because the CC conducted a non-deliberative site visit to a town owned property off Gold Brook Road.

There were no minutes for August 19 because the CC did not hold a meeting on that date.

Tom reported that he had contacted a person who could eradicate the barberry infestation within Cady Hill Forest. An incendiary method is employed. The cost is \$300 per day. The estimated time is 3 days. Tom will coordinate with Stowe Land Trust, which holds an easement on the property.

Sterling Forest Trail Maintenance

Gar reported on maintenance activities on the Upper Gorge Loop trail within Sterling Forest. He is trimming branches that extend onto the trail up to eight feet, cutting small trees growing on the trail and cutting hazard trees adjacent to the trail.

Tom reported Hardy Avery had finished a first phase of erosion control on the UGL and Marston trails within Sterling Forest.

Tom reported that the gate adjacent to the Sterling Forest parking lot is no longer operational. A new gate post is needed. David offered to help install a new post.

Emerald Ash Borer

David presented an initial draft of an EAB preparedness plan for Stowe. The CC reviewed the draft and provided meaningful comments. David will incorporate the comments into a revised draft to be presented at a future meeting.

Kiosks – Cady Hill Forest

David re-presented a mock-up of a kiosk sign for Cady Hill Forest. Commissioners reviewed the text and made a number recommendations. Christine volunteered to manage the process to develop the copy and make recommendation regarding layout. David will implement the copy and layout.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. September 16, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday September 16, 2015
Cady Hill Forest
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, David Jaqua, Andre Blais, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg, Robert Moore – Members Absent: Catherine Drake – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Kristen Sharpless from SLT and Mike Bald from GotWeeds.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Cady Hill Forest site visit

The CC conducted a site visit to Cady Hill Forest to assess the extent of the barberry invasion and discuss approaches to controlling it.

No decisions were taken.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. October 21, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday October 8, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, – Members Absent: Catherine Drake, Marina Meerburg – Absent: Robert Moore - Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Ned Houston and Ross Scatchard from Vermont Back Country Alliance

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Vermont Back Country Alliance

Representatives from the VBCA were present to discuss the development of ski glades within Sterling Forest and adjacent state owned lands. Most of the glades are located on state land between the top of Sterling Ridge and the 2500' elevation boundary with Sterling Forest. VBCA, a recently incorporated organization whose mission is to promote responsible back country skiing in Vermont, has adopted a similar approach to Vermont Mountain Bike Association by adopting formal written policies and procedures and having sanctioned local chapters.

A list of issues they addressed follows:

1. Glade cutting would be done utilizing environmentally sustainable practices. Species diversity and ages would be maintained.
2. The CC would rely on the State of Vermont to conduct impacts on habitat.
3. There would be no signage within the glades. An informational sign would be installed at either end of the Sterling Ridge Trail.
4. A traverse feeder trail at the bottom of the glades is not initially contemplated. Skiers would navigate the glades and then make traverses as needed. A transvers feeder trail may be desired sometime in the future.
5. Parking could be an issue. On snowy weekends the parking lots are full and cars are parked along the roadside.

VBCA will further refine their proposal and then present it to the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation for their consideration. They will send all relevant materials to the Town of Stowe. The CC will make a recommendation to the Stowe Selectboard. The Selectboard has final say regarding Stowe's interests.

The CC made the following motion: The Conservation Commission endorses Vermont Back Country Alliance's development of a proposal to create responsible and environmentally sustainable back country glades within Sterling Forest and adjacent state lands. Passed unanimously.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the last two deliberative meetings held on July 15 and September 2 respectively were not available.

David reported that he and Tom installed a gate post along the Upper Gorge Loop trail so that the gate may be locked shut.

Gar reported the Catamount Trail Association will conduct trail maintenance on October 18. Meet at the top of Dish Lane.

Stowe Nordic Alliance

The Stowe Nordic Club is negotiating with the Town to assume responsibility for cross country trail grooming on the Recreation Path and new trails on the Mayo Farm. **Motion – The Conservation**

Commission endorses the Stowe Nordic Club's proposal to assume grooming responsibility for the Recreation Path and Mayo Farm. Passed unanimously.

Cady Hill Forest – Barberry

The held a site visit to CHF on September 16 to assess conditions. Mike Bald presented several strategies for containing barberry. **Motion – Hire Mike Bald to implement relevant barberry eradication for up to four days within Cady Hill Forest on the inside of the existing trail corridors. Passed unanimously.**

Kiosks – Cady Hill Forest

Christine will continue to work on copy for the Cady Hill Forest kiosk. David and Tom will send her whatever information they have.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. September 22, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday November 4, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais , Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg , Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Caitrin Maloney, Stowe Land Trust, David Nordon & David Wilkens (SLT board members)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35.

Stowe Land Trust

Stowe Land Trust Executive Director Caitrin Maloney was present to continue discussion a draft of SLT's new Strategic Conservation Plan.

The CC continued read, review and offer suggestions on the document.

At the end of the time allotted for the agenda item, the CC concluded its comments on the document and thanked Caitrin for the opportunity to review it.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the October 18 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. November 18, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday November 18, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais , Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg , Rob Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Gordon Dixon and Andrew Volansky on behalf of Stowe Soccer Club, Mayo Farm neighbors Carol Schaal, Mark Schaal, Faye Torcom, Leo Clark, Edward Frey, Evelyn Frey.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Stowe Soccer Club – Proposed Mayo Farm Recreation Zone Shelter

Rob M introduced the topic, indicating that the CC would to listen to representatives from Stowe Soccer Club. The CC would follow procedures as outlined in the Land Use Changes section of the Mayo Farm Management Plan. After the presentation, the CC would first deliberate among themselves. The meeting would then be opened to the public.

Gordon Dixon representing Stowe Soccer Club presented a proposal to build a recreation shelter on Field L, the Polo Field, which is located within the Mayo Farm Recreation Zone. He reviewed the history of this and prior proposals. In 2005 Town voters had approved \$33,000 for a shelter. After an initial effort failed, the project went dormant. Recently the Selectboard explored rescinding the appropriation due to inactivity. As a response, SSC is presenting a new proposal.

Highlights of the proposal include:

1. The structure would be 28' wide, 48' long and 21' 7" tall with a 1' roof overhang.
2. The structure as presented is estimated to cost \$78,000, with \$33,000 coming from the Town. The balance will be raised privately. No expenditures will be made until all funds have been raised.
3. The structure has been designed to resemble a barn.
4. The proposal has been brought before the Historic Preservation Commission for their consultation.
5. The structure will be unheated and have a gravel floor.
6. The structure will be used for storage, assembly, safety shelter from lightening, changing of clothes, and some recreation-related social activities.
7. An outside privacy fence will contain porta-lets.
8. The preferred location is adjacent to the existing parking lot. The Club is willing to relocate it if necessary. The location must be close to the access road for it to be functional for the Club and other users.
9. The Town will own, operate and maintain the structure.
10. SSC would like to utilize the structure for storage of soccer goals during the off-seasons.

Robert M. reviewed the four criteria contained within section 7.3.12 of the Management Plan.

The permanent structure shall conform to the following:

1. Designed and constructed to look comparable to a former farm building
2. The Historic Preservation Commission should be consulted
3. Located in a spot that is reasonably screened from neighboring homeowners' view by natural topography, trees, and/or shrubs

Stowe Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

4. The sanitation component of such structure should include an onsite composting system where practicable.

Christine inquired about the size of the structure and whether composting toilets could be incorporated into the proposal.

Gordon responded that the size of the proposed structure is identical to that proposed in 2006. Composting toilets could be employed, as suggested in the Management Plan, but that would add to cost.

Tom said the best location from a screening perspective could be at the lower south west portion of the field adjacent to the water course. He had visited the site earlier in the day.

Andre questioned whether the screen requirement implied that it must be screened with existing trees.

Robert opened up the meeting to other attendees.

Leo Clark asked about the orientation of the structure. Gordon said the club did not have a preferred orientation.

Ed Frey said the proposed location adjacent to the parking lot was the worst possible location. Gordon said the Club was willing to locate it elsewhere so long as the location worked functionally.

Faye Torcom expressed concerns about the proposed location adjacent to the parking lot.

Mark Schaal suggested the Town could use of temporary structures instead of a permanent structure. Alternatively the Town could continue using the Parker Barn. If the Town allows a permanent structure, it should be smaller than the one proposed.

Ed Frey questioned the need for the shelter for safety from lightening.

Based upon the feedback received, Gordon said the Club will propose a location other than the parking lot area.

David J. said he would organize a site walk over the weekend and engage neighboring homeowners to ensure they are informed about the details of the proposal.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the November 4 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Other Business

The CC will invite Jens Hilke from Vermont Division of Fish and Wildlife to present information on the significance of the Shutesville wildlife corridor at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next deliberative meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. December 2, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday December 16, 2015
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, Christine McGowan, Marina Meerburg , Rob Moore – Members Absent: David Jaqua– Town: Tom Jackman – Guests: Steve Hagenbuch, Alan Thompson, Waterbury CC, Leslie Gauff, Drew Clymer & Evan Chizmark, SMBC.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

SMBC Year-end Trail Report

Leslie, Drew and Evan were present to review SMBC's accomplishments over the past season. Drew stated that over 100 volunteers showed up for the first trail day of the season and that they logged 800 volunteer hours over the course of the season. Tuesday evening trail work sessions were well attended. Managing trail openings and closings was challenging this year with the rain in the spring and the freeze/thaw in the fall. Next year the club hopes to hire a part-time professional trail builder to work on trails and lead volunteer workdays. One new trail up to Peak A View in Sterling Forest is planned for the 2016 construction season.

Shutesville Hill Wildlife Corridor/North Hill Cell Tower

Steve and Alan attended the meeting to give an overview of the values of the corridor and explain the WCC's opposition to the cell tower. Public comments will be accepted until the end of January and it is anticipated that a hearing will be held sometime in April. The Town of Stowe has not yet received party status from the Public Service Board.

Cady Hill Forest Bird Habitat Assessment

Steve, who works for Audubon Vermont, discussed the assessment that he conducted during the summer. It was the consensus of the Commission that the information in the report should be used to help inform the update of the forest management plan, scheduled for 2018.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

Christine moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Catherine and passed unanimously with a couple of friendly amendments.

Annual Report

Tom passed out a draft version of the CC report for the Town Annual Report for review. Christine suggested adding something about the chair lift that was donated by Kitty Coppack that is now hung in Cady Hill Forest.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wed. January 6 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Jackman.