

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday January 6, 2016
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:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the December 16 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Gar reported that he cleaned up trees along the trails in Sterling Forest.

Gar reported that the water bars installed last year were collecting water and said he would like to do something about them such as replacing them with culverts. Tom and David both said that would be inappropriate for a number of reasons. Water bars are a standard means of shedding water off trails. They are low maintenance. Culverts cause too much overall erosion due to necessity for ditching. The trails are wet due to warm temperatures. When there is sufficient cold and snow, they should not pose a problem.

Work Plan for 2015 - 2016

Tom presented copies of the current year's work plan. Four major items, Sunset Hill tree cutting, SF Marston and Upper Gorge Loop trail work and CHF barberry eradication phase 1, have been completed to date. The CC reviewed the plan and made several adjustments. Tom will update the document and present a revised version at a future meeting.

Proposed North Hill Cell Tower

Tom updated the CC on the status of the proposal. The Selectboard will meet next Monday to decide if the Town will take a position on it.

Tom said there were two main issues, aesthetics and habitat, the town could weigh in on. The aesthetic issue was doubtful as the tower would have to reach a threshold of being "shocking to the average person." The habitat issue had more substance in that the area is an important "corridor forest block" that connects two large forest blocks, the Mansfield forest block and the Worcester forest block. ANR has raised concerns about the proposed project's impacts. They are seeking a technical hearing.

The Commission reached the following consensus.

The Conservation Commission's position regarding the proposed cell tower on North Hill is that the surrounding area, known as the North Hill forest block or the Shutesville Hill wildlife corridor, is a significant, rare and irreplaceable natural resource that constitutes an important connector for wildlife within the region and the northeast of the United States. Therefore, the Commission supports the following motion:

Motion: The Conservation Commission supports the Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's request for a technical hearing in order to provide for discovery and additional finding of evidence to decide whether or not sufficient mitigating conditions can be imposed on the proposal to ensure the preservation and integrity of the North Hill forest block wildlife corridor.

Moved by Blais, seconded by Meerburg, Passed 6 Yeah (Anderson, Blais, Drake, McGowan, Meerburg, Moore) 1 Nay (Jaqua)

Other Business

None.

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

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The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. January 20, 2015 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday January 20, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

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

Gar reported that the water bars installed last year are a nuisance for skiers because of the undulations in the trail they create. He said he would like to do something about them such as replacing them with culverts.

Moscow Recreational Field Management Plan Review

The CC is commencing the review and re-write of the Moscow Recreation Field management plan.

CC members present reviewed four existing Moscow Recreation Field documents. They are:

1. Moscow Recreation Field Baseline Documentation Report unattributed and undated circa 1998 prior to establishment of easement.
2. *Moscow Ballfield Inventory Survey* by Peggy Struhsacker dated 7/24/1998
3. *Management Plan for the Moscow Recreation Field* dated August 1999
4. *Site Weed Management Plan for Town of Stowe - Moscow Recreation Field* by Redstart Forestry, dated July 2009

A number of were areas for further research were identified.

1. Identify current uses of the property
2. Engage the Recreation Department and Recreation Commission regarding their ideas for uses of the property.
3. Engage community in ideas for uses.
4. Identify water quality enhancement opportunities for the Little River
5. Assess condition of the pond and recommend management action items
6. Assess parking area
7. Assess invasive species
8. Assess river access path

Tree Planting Plan

Tom prepared a document that listed areas within the Town that the CC could evaluate for tree planting. These included Stowe Village, Memorial Park, Lower Village, Mountain Road Village, Stowe High School and Mayo Farm.

David provided a brief summary of the town's tree planting activities over the years. CC members then discussed strategies for how to approach tree planting. David suggested that the Town could be well served to create an enduring Town document to provide a framework for current and future tree planting activities. The document could have for each identified area a map or maps, aerial photos, an inventory, an on-going planting plan, constituencies and outreach strategies, a history of activity. A suitable species list could be included. The emerald ash borer and other pest threats could be identified

Stowe Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

and included. Producing such a document could be accomplished over the next year. Site walks to the various areas could be scheduled this summer.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

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

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday February 3, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the January 20 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Tom updated the Commission on the North Hill cell tower project.

Conservationist of the Year

Tom distributed a list of prior recipients. The CC discussed possible CotY candidates for 2016.

David moved to nominate Sterling Falls Gorge Natural Area Trust be recognized as Conservationist of the Year. Christine seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Moscow Recreational Field Management Plan Review

The CC continued the review and re-write of the Moscow Recreation Field management plan. Members not present at the previous meeting were briefed on the details. Engagement with the Recreation Commission and Department is important. David and Tom will work on an initial draft.

Tree Planting Plan

The CC discussed how to approach tree planting. David suggested that the CC could take one of two approaches, either a year by year opportunistic approach, or a multi-year comprehensive approach. The latter would require a significant amount of upfront work. By consensus, the CC decided to attempt a comprehensive approach. During the upcoming year, the CC will draft a comprehensive tree planting plan for the Town and engage various stake-holders as needed.

Cady Hill Forest Kiosks Sign

Christine and Catherine prepared new text for the kiosk sign for Cady Hill Forest. David prepared a mock-up of the sign incorporating the new text. The CC provided input on the text and design. David will prepare an updated sign for further review at an upcoming meeting.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wed. February 17 at 5:30 PM at the Akeley Memorial Building.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday March 2, 2016
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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30.

Stowe Land Trust

Caitrin Maloney was present to present and discuss SLT's new Strategic Conservation Plan. Caitrin had provided the CC an opportunity to review and comment upon a draft version last year.

Caitrin then discussed a conservation opportunity known as the Kaiser Farm in Nebraska Valley. The farm would be conserved under Vermont Land Trust's Farmland Access Program. After discussion of the project, the CC voted to endorse it and asked Tom to communicate the endorsement to the Selectboard.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

The minutes for the February 17 meeting were reviewed and approved.

There will be a conservation related presentation sponsored by the Waterbury Conservation Commission at the Green Mountain Club headquarters. The CC has been asked to underwrite refreshments. The CC approved a motion to do so. **Motion: The Stowe Conservation Commission endorses the Kaiser Farm conservation project. Moved, seconded, passed.**

Motorized Wheel Barrow

The CC had previously discussed the possibility of the Town acquiring a motorized wheel barrow to be used to maintain Sterling Forest trails. Tom said he would check with Stowe Mountain Bike Club to see if the Town could utilize their unit. However, they had sold the unit last year. The CC agreed to purchase a new unit. **Motion: Authorize purchase of a mechanized wheel barrow. Moved, seconded passed.**

Cady Hill Forest Kiosks Sign

David prepared a revised version of the kiosk sign for Cady Hill Forest. By consensus the CC approved the design as final. David and Tom will coordinate fabrication of two signs, one for each of the Mountain Road and Cady Hill Road access points.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM. Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will be a site walk on Wed. March 16, 2015 at 5:30 PM at Moscow Field.

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

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday, June 1, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, Darcy Moon, Robert Moore. Members absent: Christine McGowan, David Jaqua Town: Tom Jackman

The meeting was called to order at 5:30

Minutes correspondence and reports.

The minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor modification.

Gar distributed a letter regarding knotweed that he received from the Community church and the members agreed to inspect the site following the meeting.

Hunnewell Meadow

Tom updated the Commission on the donation to Stowe Land Trust of a 12-acre conservation easement on property owned by Willard Hunnewell. The property is directly adjacent to the Mayo Farm Property on Weeks Hill Road. SLT has requested that a sign be erected noting the conservation of the property near the "March of Dimes" parking lot. As a contribution to the project, it has been requested that \$250 to pay for the sign be expended from the Conservation Commission budget. A motion was made by Catherine to utilize funds for this purpose and seconded by Darcy and was approved unanimously.

Election of Officers

A motion was made for the following slate of officers for FY '17 by Catherine and seconded by Darcy:

Robert Moore, Chairman Christine McGowan Vice Chairman David Jaqua, Secretary

The motion was unanimously approved.

FY '16 Work Plan and proposed FY 17 draft Work Plan

The Commission reviewed the remaining items on the FY 16 Work Plan and discussed some new activities for FY'17. For FY '17 it was agreed to continue work on invasive species and upgrading the kiosks signs as well as schedule additional work days at Sunset Rock and proceed with the update of the Moscow Management Plan. Tom will prepare the FY '17 Work Plan accordingly to be discussed at a future meeting.

Other Business

Tom asked if it would be more convenient for members if future meetings be held at 5:00 p.m. This issue will be discussed at a future time when all members are present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 and commission members conducted a brief site visit to the Town owned area behind the community church to look at the knotweed. Respectfully submitted by Catherine Drake.

The next meeting will be a non-deliberative site visit to Sterling Forest on Wednesday, July 15th, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday July 20, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Darcy Moon, Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman– Guests: Jens Hilke, Sumana Serchan

The meeting was called to order at 5:00.

Wildlife Conservation

Jens Hilke from the State of Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife was present to discuss wildlife corridors in the Stowe area. Specifically, he cited the Shutesville Hill area along VT 100 as an important corridor between the 77,000 acre Mansfield wildlife management block and the 45,000 acre Putnam wildlife management block. This is the only corridor between the two blocks that has continuous tree cover throughout.

Jens encouraged the CC to educate the community in general about the significance of wildlife habitat and corridors. He suggested that we hold a public information meeting on the subject and contact specific property owners to attend. He also noted that we have influence over the town plan as well as input into the town's planning processes.

Minutes, Correspondence and Reports

David distributed minutes he had taken from a prior meeting on August 7 1996. Since then he has taken minutes for the CC during 16 of the 20 years he has been on the board. David was recently elected as Secretary. David requested that after this meeting, someone else take responsibility for taking minutes. Catherine Drake volunteered, with the caveat that she does not take them for the next 20 years. Motion: Elect Catherine Drake Secretary. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Sterling Forest Trail Work

The Conservation Commission conducted a site walk to Sterling Forest on June 15 to assess the so-called Papa's Trail. Sumana Serchan, a Vermont Land Trust Regional Stewardship Manager for Sterling Forest was present during the site walk. VLT holds the conservation easement on Sterling Forest. Moira Anderson and Metzi Anderson were also present.

Papa's Trail connects the Anderson-owned portion of the forest to the town-owned portion and eventually junctions with the Upper Gorge Loop trail. The town-owned portion of the trail has been wet historically, as it runs through a lowland flat.

Sometime earlier in the spring of 2016 Gar Anderson had taken it upon himself to dig ditches adjacent to the trail, install culverts, and mound up material onto the trail on town-owned land without prior authorization from the Conservation Commission. Gar responded to CC member inquiries as to why he did the work by stating that he was unsure of the property boundary between his land and town-owned land. CC embers said they would mark the property boundary so that such mistakes would not happen again.

During the June 15 site walk Gar requested that the CC visit a site in the vicinity of the Camly – Moulton homestead because he wanted to install a culvert. The site is unambiguously on town-owned land. The CC went to the site and determined that a culvert was not necessary. A simple plank would suffice. The CC consensus was that Gar should not install a culvert. Regardless of this, Gar installed a culvert at the site the next day.

In the past Gar has undertaken similar unauthorized trail work within the town-owned portion of Sterling Forest. For instance, in 2012/13, Gar performed extensive unauthorized trail work on the Marston trail. After that incident, he was explicitly told by the CC to refrain from such activities without prior authorization. He has performed unauthorized activities within the town-owned portion

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of Sterling Forest on several other occasions since Marston incident. After each occurrence, the CC has instructed Gar to not undertake any activities within the town-owned portion of Sterling Forest without prior authorization. Gar is authorized to remove blown down trees along the trails and use a town-owned motorized wheel barrow to transport equipment in doing so.

The CC told Gar at the July 20 meeting that he was not authorized to do any work within the town-owned portion of Sterling Forest except for maintenance of blown down trees. CC members told him that he must obtain CC approval for any work on town-owned property prior to doing the work. Gar agreed. CC members said that if another instance of unauthorized activity took place, the CC would consider seeking administrative remedies by going before the Selectboard. Gar said he understood.

Tom reported that he and Hardy Avery had developed a plan to address the wet conditions on Papa's trail. Hardy will install boardwalks and bridging. The cost estimate is \$3,000. The work will be performed in the late summer to early fall.

Work Plan for 2016 - 2017

Tom distributed a work plan for the upcoming year. After discussion and several minor modifications, the CC adopted the plan by consensus.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by David Jaqua.

The next meeting will be a site walk on Wed. August 3, 2015 at 5:00 PM at Sterling Forest.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday August 17, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Darsey Moon, Robert Moore – Members Absent: – Town: Tom Jackman– Guests: Danielle Fitzko, Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, Steve Gerard

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Village Street Tree Inventory/Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

Danielle Fitzko from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program was present to discuss work her team accomplished in July in Stowe Village. The Summary Report was distributed and highlights were discussed. One finding of note was that Stowe has 160 street trees and that 49% of these public trees are ash and at risk for emerald ash borer should it invade Stowe. Danielle stated that this is the highest percentage of ash trees that her group has seen in a Vermont town survey.

Danielle also noted that her group found that many of the public trees were found to have “mulch volcanos” which are detrimental to a trees health and the members agreed that this should be shared with the parks maintenance staff and the private landscape companies providing services.

A long discussion ensued about the many public trees needing pruning or removal that were identified in the report. Members expressed concerns for the cost and lack of a plan for ongoing maintenance of public trees. Danielle suggested that routine pruning be considered every 5 years and could be undertaken in groups with the high use areas being addressed first. The CC also discussed concept of their taking the lead for the town on public tree maintenance. It was agreed that this will be discussed with the tree warden, Charlie Lusk, as well as the maintenance department and the recreation department. It was felt that a comprehensive town-wide tree inventory should be completed.

Danielle stated that there are educational resources available from her program that would be available to us to develop a plan. Tom stated that he has discussed the report with the town manager who is on board with addressing the issue and identifying resources. David suggested that we also work with the electric company to educate them on tree issues.

While there is no emerald ash borer currently affecting the area, David said he is committed to working on a preparedness plan which would serve as an educational piece initially and evolving into a rapid response plan as needed.

The Commission decided to set up a future meeting in October for an initial conversation with the interested parties, including Danielle, to develop a strategy for next steps.

Correspondence and Reports

Catherine distributed a proposed submission to the Association of Vermont Conservation Commission’s Library of Conservation Success Stories describing the Cady Hill Forest project. Commission members agreed to review the document and provide comments so that the Stowe story can be submitted prior to the Association’s annual meeting in October.

Tom distributed information about the forest legacy program and Hunger Mountain Headwaters, a proposed project of the Trust for Public Land and Stowe Land Trust. SLT is requesting a letter of

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support for the project from the CC to the State forest stewardship committee, which ranks projects for federal funding. It was noted that the Stowe parcels offer a parking opportunity to take pressure off the Pinnacle parking lots. A motion was made by Christine and seconded by Darsey to have Tom send a letter of support for the project on behalf of the CC, which passed unanimously.

Tom report that a graduate student is completing a natural resource assessment of Sunset Rock and will submit a project to us for possible inclusion in the management plan.

Lamoille County Conservation Commissions Meeting

The regional meeting of conservation commissions in Lamoille County will be held on September 14th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. In order to encourage participation in this meeting it was decided that we will cancel the September 21st meeting of the CC.

Moscow Recreation Field Management Plan

Tom suggested that we have a joint meeting with the recreation committee with respect to Moscow recreation field since the original purpose of the area is not being met due to erosion. He will attempt to schedule their attendance at our October 5th meeting.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Drake.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at for a work visit to Mayo farm to install and replace tree fencing. Members should meet at the Cemetery Road parking lot.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday, October 19, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

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

Guests: Danielle Fitzko and Meredith Whitney of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program; Gabe Andrews, graduate student, University of Vermont; Charlie Lusk, Tree Warden; Steve Gerard

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Presentation on Sunset Rock Natural Resource Assessment

Gabe Andrews, a graduate student at University of Vermont, presented a summary of his rapid natural resource assessment of Sunset Rock prepared as part of his comprehensive exam. Gabe previously provided the written text of the report which can be used in the management plan. Gabe told the story of Sunset Rock from the viewpoint of a snail describing the millions of years of geological activity that formed the area that we enjoy today. Gabe mentioned that the property was once used to pasture sheep and there was evidence of wolf activity in town. Following the talk, discussion ensued and Gabe suggested that in particular, the CC should continue to monitor invasive species, especially in disturbed areas, and provide additional signage to prevent visitors from going off trail.

Village Street Tree Inventory

Danielle Fitzko and Meredith Whitney from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VUCFP) were present to continue discussion on the Stowe Village Public Tree Inventory Summary Report and future efforts. Charlie Lusk, Stowe's Tree Warden was also present to provide his expertise and input.

The group discussed several options for pruning and removal of trees throughout the town and the best approach for hiring outside contractors for such work. Danielle stated that her colleague, Elise Schadler, can prepare an action plan and provided two examples of strategic action plans for public tree management. The plans cover topics such as partnering, operations, community outreach and financing and Danielle offered to provide the CC with PDF's of the plans. This technical expertise is provided at no cost to communities and could commence at the beginning of next year. Tom mentioned that the CC has \$4000 earmarked for pruning and planting trees this fiscal year. Danielle said they also have a grant program for planting, maintenance and community outreach. Christine suggested that we get on Elise's schedule for early next year to work toward developing an action plan.

Charlie reviewed with the CC some considerations for actively managing town trees pointing out preferred timing and pruning for optimum tree structure and managing risk. He also mentioned that healthy trees are important to our tourist based economy. David said we need more maples on the streetscapes and we should think about species diversity.

Danielle said that Elise would draft the plan and the CC or a subcommittee would review. Rob also mentioned that we might want to consider a plan for immediate pruning and all agreed that Charlie could work with an arborist to work out a plan consistent with the August 2016 report and initially

deal with the largest trees on Main Street. Danielle said that we should work with a company that has a certified arborist on the staff and referred the CC to Treesaregood.org for a list of certified arborists. Darsey and Christine volunteered to take the lead on follow up meetings after a full meeting by the end of the year to kick off the project. The report will take into consideration the emerald ash borer preparedness plan but not combine the two plans.

Final comments included the point that VUCFP can give grants to plant trees on private lands with corresponding maintenance agreement for public benefit and that we need to consider tree plantings and/or removal in any future road or municipal construction projects. Steve mentioned that we should look to the future and address the vision for the town with respect to trees.

Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

David distributed his initial draft Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan stating that the plan should be presented to the Select Board so that they know what the future impact would be if the town is infected. David would like feedback from CC members and would like to get some figures on what the financial impact of tree removal will be if the invasion occurs. David will add a section about the need for municipal road way survey of ash tree and potential impact.

Meredith said Emerald Ash Borer might actually be in Vermont, but has not been detected yet. There is no way to combat against it, but Christine suggested we add a section in the report about utilizing wood in the event trees are removed.

Correspondence and Reports

Gar updated the CC on his efforts on the Marston trail with the motorized wheelbarrow and stated that David will be working with him on a new downed tree. He also mentioned that new signage has been requested by neighbors to clarify parking and access. Gar will work with the Stowe Land Trust on a request for a erecting a temporary winter structure on his property for educational purposes.

Christine and Rob went to Sterling Forest to speak with neighbors about their concerns. Rob will follow up.

Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Drake.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Stowe Conservation Commission
Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Akeley Memorial Building
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Gar Anderson, Andre Blais, Catherine Drake, David Jaqua, Christine McGowan, Darsey Moon, Robert Moore Town: Tom Jackman

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes and Updates

Andre recently hiked Peek-A-View Trail via Dish Lane and reported that it was a nice route. Gar reported that David recently went to Gar's property and removed the motorized wheelbarrow and replaced it with a pull unit. The motorized unit will now be located at Mayo Farm. Gar also distributed information on the American Hiking Association's annual meeting.

Tom reported that the Recreation Commission is interested in possibly moving the community garden to the Mayo Farm field next to the March of Dimes monument because of the access to well water.

The Intervale Conservation Nursery has completed Phase Two of the West Branch planting of Willow and saplings. A suggestion has been made that they could come to Thompson Park for a half day once a year to control invasives. This could cost approximately \$500 for half day or \$900 for a full if we want to consider them working on Cady Hill barberry as well.

The minutes of the August 17, 2016 and October 19, 2016 meetings were reviewed and approved.

Lamoille County Conservation Commissions Meeting

The regional meeting of Conservation Commissions in Lamoille County was held in the evening on September 14th. Gar, Christine, Darsey and Catherine were in attendance. Rob presented the findings of the exercise that was held at the meeting where Commission members provided information to each other regarding past, present, future and needed activities. The CC discussed ways in which the information could be used, including building relationships with neighboring commissions, collaborating on projects and sharing information. It was emphasized that it might be a good idea to go visit neighboring Conservation Commissions and share the Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness plan as a first step.

Rob suggested that Tom fill in the remaining Stowe information that was not included in the final charts. CC members will provide input on which activities and ideas they would like to pursue.

Act 64-Vermont Water Quality Bill

Rob presented a slide show overview of the DEC's Municipal Roads General Permit under Act 64. The intent of the presentation was to familiarize CC members on provisions of the Act as they pertain to the town's roads and road impacts to environmental health to waterways. Private roads do not fall under the Act.

Under the Act, municipalities will be covered under a general permit, but will be required to complete an inventory and develop and implement a Road Stormwater Management Plans over the course of several years. Tom stated that as town road projects are executed, they are currently using best management practices consistent with the Act.

The Agricultural aspect of Act 64 will impact Mayo Farm. Tom distributed the draft rule which will affect the management of the farm and highlighted the need to continue the relationship with the Percy's to make sure they are well informed on requirements.

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Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Drake.

The meeting of December 7th is cancelled and instead the CC will attend the Shutesville Hill Wildlife Lecture Series on “Animals of the North” at the Green Mountain Club Visitors Center at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2016.