

Brookfield Conservation Commission November Meeting Minutes - Draft

November 18, 2024, 7:00pm
Regular meeting, Brookfield Town Office

Present Jon Binhammer, Starr Strong, Sarah Shaw, Marty Allen, Jon Jickling, and Susan Shea

Meeting called to order 7:04pm

1. Review Agenda: No additions
2. Public Comment: No public present
3. Approval of Minutes of the October Meeting: No comments, Starr moved to accept the minutes, Marty, seconded. Approved.
4. Town Plan Update: No progress found in Planning Commission meeting minutes. Sue to request update from Chair Zakov
5. Ongoing project updates:
 - a. Town Forest Management: Commissioners plan to meet county forester, Robert Nelson, on Dec 3 proposed at 10am to review modified harvest proposals.
 - b. Wildlife Crossing: I-89 highway crossing, Jens Hilke reported that the draft agreement letter is ready but pending approval by VTRANS that they will remove the fencing. Commissioners will continue to remind parties to continue the process. Commissioners discussed facing the game camera again in a different area to check whether we capture more images. Starr will set up the cam after rifle season concludes
6. Class III Wetland Upgrade:

Jon Binhammer reached out to VNRC inquired about Wetland Classifications in Brookfield, specifically relating to the wetland adjacent to the fen located on the Bissan Property, which is currently not identified on VNRC Maps unless using the VT Fish and Wildlife layer for rare species. Julie Follensby (State Wetlands Office for Orange County) indicated that the Commission could petition for an upgrade to Class I Wetland and that a delineation of wetland wasn't necessary. The Commission discussed the proposal to petition to upgrade to Class I Wetland, which would provide maximum protections for the wetland and thus the rare Ladies Slippers species. Jon Binhammer to follow-up with Julie on the best way to increase protections. We will take up issue in December meeting.
7. Conservation Commission is an "Advisory Body" see https://sos.vermont.gov/media/hacivw5l/joint_vlct_vsba_sos_act133_s-

55_final.pdf As advisory body, the BCC does not need to record meetings. Marty will follow-up with Tom Allen to get access to Town Zoom account to be able to offer dedicated virtual meeting option without using personal Zoom accounts of the Commissioners.

8. Other Business

9. Adjourned at 8:27 – next meeting December 16th, 2024.