

## **January 14, 2015 Berlin Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Those attending: Ellen Drysdale, Phil Gentile, Beth Daut, Tom Willard, Andrea Chandler

**The Old Town Forest logging harvest began** again last week with logger Matt McAllister freezing up the logging roads . The first load of logs is expected to be hauled out this week. Matt has requested that Adam Holbrook assist him as subcontractor. Adam has never cut marked timber or worked for a consulting forester but has about 5 years experience with his own skidder. Our CC decided that the risk to other standing trees was too great in this exceptionally well-managed, high-value forest to allow an inexperienced logger on this job. Instead, we asked Dan Singleton, Washington County forester, to offer to extend the time-frame for one more winter so Matt could complete the job without inexperienced help..

Subsequently, after Matt was told of the decision, he said that it might be possible for experienced logger Tracy St. Louis to assist him. If he's available the CC will agree to this subcontractor.

**The beaver deterrent** for the culvert on Crosstown Road will be looked into this spring by the CC in consultation with specialists in flow control devices. \$1400 has been allocated in the budget to fund this solution. An article published this month in the New Hampshire Sunday News describes several similar problems that were addressed with deterrents and have initially proven successful. Skip Lisle of Grafton VT, who invented the Beaver Deceiver, said clogged culverts are the most common serious beaver problems. Culverts are attractive to beavers because the road represents a nice big dam with a little hole to dam. He said installing flow devices saves the town costly damage and keeps beavers in the ecosystem which is a great thing for thousands of other species.

The VT Fish and Wildlife Department published a conservation planning manual called “Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage”. It's a guide to community-based planning for the Conservation of Vermont's fish, wildlife, and biological diversity. A copy of this manual will be kept in the CC's file cabinet under “Planning”.

Respectfully submitted  
Andrea Chandler