

January 4, 2017, Berlin Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Those present: Ellen Drysdale, Tom Willard, Phil Gentile, Ellen Sulek, Beth Daut

The old Town forest logging harvest was closed out by Bill Atwood. Bill's work included installing erosion control on 14,859 lineal feet of roads used by Matt McAllister for extracting trees from the sale area. This included installing water bars with some smoothing and removal of brush as needed to the roadbed at a cost of \$2,750. A map of the closeout area is filed in the CC cabinet under forest management. A total of \$39,097 was received as revenue from Matt McAllister from 2014 through 2016. Dan Singleton's (County forester) recommendation for logging the 30% remainder of this harvest left by Matt is to wait at least three years due to the potential impact from the Forest Tent Caterpillar damage from last summer. Two options would be to delay the remaining harvest until the next scheduled harvest in 15 years and the other is to find another contractor to complete the remaining work after the three year wait. Both options have their benefits and drawbacks to the forest and the towns people.

The Select Board agreed to our request to send a check for \$3000 to the Cross Vermont Trail for use to help fund a bike bridge across the Winooski River near Gallison Hill Road. Bike Path savings will be used to fund the request.

Andrea has indicated that the May Conservation Commission meeting will be her last. After many years enjoying being part of this commission and the opportunities it provided to conserve and protect the special natural areas of our town, it is time to move on. Beth Daut will also step down as new career opportunities interfere with her attending meetings. Her skills with forest management will be missed.

Plans to recruit new members were discussed. Each member was encouraged to make personal contact with communitiy members who might be interested in joining.