

November 5, 2014 Berlin Conservation Commission Minutes

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

Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center requested an increase in Berlin's current annual contribution of \$500 to \$1500 (.50 per resident). After discussion, a \$1000 contribution with an inquiry as to a possible reduced or free admission on certain days for Berlin residents was agreed upon. As with all budget items, this will be dependent on Selectboard approval. Andrea will contact CVMCC for confirmation.

The Berlin Community Rink was mown by Tom, weedwhacked by Andrea. Tom will send out e-mails for help with packing snow. Phil will help Tom re-nail boards and rehang door. New mats and push shovel were purchased for the the warming hut.

The Lawson Lot was mowed by Eastman Long.

The old town forest logger Matt McAllister requested permission to create less steep logging trails to facilitate the completion of his logging contract this winter and County Forester Dan Singleton is mapping the route.

The Dufresne Lot, located on Irish Hill and owned by the town of Berlin, does not have a forest management plan. Beth Daut volunteered to write the plan for the town. Thank you Beth! Beth will look into costs associated with placing conservation easements on Berlin's town forest lands.

UVM student Mark Pugsley contacted our Commission for management plans and reports on the Berlin Pond ecosystem. He is writing a sample ecosystem management plan and has chosen Berlin Pond as his subject.

The Berlin Pond outlet culvert on Crosstown Road just north of Shed Road is clogged repeatedly by beavers. This damming causes the flow to slow with the water rising on the pond side and the water drying up on the outflow side. This sets up a condition where the culvert may wash out and cause damage to the road as well as destroying vegetation that is either flooded or left dry. Fish, amphibians, vegetation and the road are all threatened. **Our Commission will recommend the town contract with a licensed trapper to monitor the culvert and remove beavers.**

The Conservation Summit at Montpelier High School was attended by a couple of our members. Topics included the causes and cures of stormwater runoff, and the Shoreland Protection Bill. Incorporation of Green Infrastructure into the permitting process was discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Chandler