

## **November 16, 2016, Berlin Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Those attending: Ellen Drysdale, Ellen Sulek, Phil Gentile, Mark Manges, Andrea Chandler and guests Rick Hopkins and Greg Western from Cross Vermont Trail.

**Cross Vermont Trail Association's** representatives Rick Hopkins and Greg Western explained their organization's **capital campaign** to raise funds for a bridge across the Winooski River just upstream of Gallison Hill Road along Route 2. The City of Montpelier has issued a challenge grant where they would donate \$1 per resident if the other towns in our area would also donate \$1 per resident. After discussion, our Berlin Board voted to support this effort by **meeting with the Berlin Select Board on Monday and requesting a donation of \$2,887 from Berlin's Bike Path savings account or through a ballot article.**

**Reconsideration of the Beaver Deceiver for Crosstown Road**, while thought to be a good solution and supported by all our members present, was put on hold when it was reported that the road crew said the culverts in question would need to be replaced in the not too distant future. Skip Lisle, builder of the deceiver, had said the BD should last for 40 years with little maintenance with a construction cost of \$3000. Hopefully it will still be an option in the future.

**The Berlin Town Forest logging harvest** was being closed out this week by Bill Atwood. Matt McAlister's letter of credit was cashed in. It's the opinion of the county forester, Dan Singleton, and Forest Health Specialist Josh Halman, that the remainder of the harvest should be incorporated into the next harvest in 10 to 15 years due to defoliation and dry conditions.

**The Recreation and Conservation 2017 budgets** were discussed. Our members reviewed the request for the school sport field and allocated \$2025 of the \$3300 request. Funds for skating rink snowblowing will be an additional expense to our usual budget.

**The Berlin Pond preliminary plans for a Fish and Wildlife public access** were reviewed. Our board continues to object to this access at the north end as the habitat in this area is of high value. This area is very shallow for paddling and rarely freezes solidly in the winter due to running water. The southern end access accommodates public access in a less sensitive area and better winter ice.

**The Muzzy Road Friendship Park** will need to be maintained. The Town administrator has said he will request maintenance funds for next year. A combination of volunteers and paid grounds keepers would work best. Mark has volunteered to help out in any way he can. We will coordinate with the town administrator.