

## **September 2, 2015 Berlin Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

**Vermont Land Trust** requested the CC make a donation toward the stewardship and project costs of a conservation easement on the Burn's property on East Road in Berlin. In making these decisions, the CC tries to assess the property's natural resource values following the Berlin Conservation Fund Guidelines.

Most importantly, this particular parcel is in close proximity to Berlin's municipal wells and is in the source protection area. While residential housing is not necessarily in conflict, reducing exposure to future development would help safeguard the groundwater.

Secondly, the property owner currently allows community members to use cross country ski trails for recreational use.

Third, there are two streams, one wetland, and two fens that will be given added protection. There is an abundance of wildlife present which will ensure the integrity of their habitat. This property also has about 2700' of road frontage but our CC believes that limiting development at this site does not necessarily add a benefit for our town.

**The CC voted to recommend a \$5000 Conservation Fund donation toward VLT's \$15,000 stewardship fee.**

**The beaver problem on Crosstown Road** was discussed. Skip Lisle of Grafton Vermont would take a look at the problem for \$300 but given Fish and Wildlife's Chris Bernier's assessment, our members still feel this site is problematic for a beaver deceiver solution. Also, given that the culvert involves the integrity of a road, we believe the solution is better handled by the Town rather than the Conservation Commission.

**The town forest logging** operation was discussed. Payments of \$26,116.48 have been made to the town, with a \$17,527.42 balance left to be realized from Matt McAllister's \$43,643.90 bid. Matt has requested another extension and wants to use a sub-contractor whom he will oversee as needed. Our CC will follow-up with a new contract with a few provisions including winter only cutting, and any subcontractor used must first be approved by the Berlin Conservation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Chandler