

Minutes from Berlin Conservation Commission

September 24, 2020 2:00 pm

In Attendance: Phil Gentile, Ellen Sulek, Tom Willard, JC Earle, Sister Laurian Seeber, Wendy Bolles

Agenda:

1. Illegal tree tapping
2. Bridge on Irish Hill trail
3. Cross VT Trail update
4. MMBA request
5. Town trail maintenance
6. Stewart Farm field mowing
7. Button Up
8. Conserving town lands

Discussion:

2. Bridge: should be replaced. Not safe.

Selectboard would like to work with VAST to cover cost of bridge replacement (would VAST want it wide enough to accommodate groomer?)

Bellavance trucking might donate a metal truck bed for bridge

Josh Walker, Justin Lawrence, VAST member went to site

Land purchased with VT LandTrust doesn't permit snowmobiles. BCC doesn't want to change that.

3. Cross VT Trail: dedication happened. Phil attended.

Bridge going over Winooski starting construction in November

4. MMBA request: BCC went up with Eric. There are some plants that need protection. Choose an alternative route if possible.

Wendy said they are still building trails on our land: blazing and flagging lots of new trails. Do we need a town ordinance to prohibit renegade trails? Would signage help? Need to put more signage-educate users.

5. Town trail maintenance: cleaning out water bars to get rid of standing water (hand work)

6. Mowing: will be done after Tim's haying is complete. Cost ~\$800
Mower will go up from Boyer fields to Stewart farm fields so may be a little more.

7. Button Up: event postponed till next year because of Covid-19.

8. Conserving Town lands: Protecting Benjamin Falls (access trail to) and Stewart Farm (Paul Laffal's parcel)
Approach Perrin to buy parcel? Check with Corinne Strisberg
Central VT RPC public lands maps-available? Specifically Berlin? Needs to be

1. Illegal tree tapping: Selectboard approved \$700 to hire Rose (forester). Rose is back but JC's time is limited. Rob Townsend is also a paid surveyor but doesn't like to blaze the trees. Tied survey tape is sufficient for Rose to do what she needs to do.

Action:

*Write up our position/recommendation that we not expand the bridge and not make this a part of the VAST trail network

*Wendy will check with her husband (Civil engineer teaches at Norwich) to see if we can get some volunteer labor to build bridge

*Wendy will check to see if there are samples of town ordinances as a model for creating one: Forrest and Parks

*Check about Grants for signage?

*Check with Andrea to see who made original signs.

*Letter to MMBA (Brad) about our position on trail expansion, copy to Tom Badowski.

*Get ideas to Phil about signage on Irish Hill trail by October 15th.

*Clean out water bars in spring

*Release chestnut tree

*Tom will get Tim's number (Mower) to Phil

*Contact ...to see if he could get the RPC to get us the mapping

*Try to get up to illegal tapping location with Rose ASAP using ATVs to save time.

Meeting adjourned 3:50 pm

Next meeting October 22 at 2:00 pm.

Agenda:

Signage to promote BCC's work and inform people of rules. Maps?

Follow up on illegal tapping

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Sulek