

# **CONSERVATION & TRAILS COMMITTEE**

**Essex Town Offices, 81 Main St., Essex Junction,  
Vermont 05452**

## **Draft Meeting minutes for March 9, 2021**

In attendance: Cristine Hammer - Chair, Alan Botula - Vice Chair, Diana Wood - Clerk, Casey Clark. Grace Vinson, Mike Spaeder

Town staff present: Chuck Vile and Darren Schibler

Hammer Call to order at 6:33

### **Public comments - None**

### **Changes or Additions to the agenda**

none. Botula moves, Vinson seconds.

### **Spring Clean up Day**

Hammer notes that other than Botula, no one has had any experience with the Clean up Event

typically the event aligns with Earth Day date

see "To Do list" for more details

Hillary had been the one that requested food donations for the past year

Considerations for this year:

- dates
- locations - Indian Brook, Multi Parks, Saxon Hill

Grace Vinson can offer some guidance on the COVID guidelines.

Clark asks about what people committed to, Hammer notes that most groups were very supervised. Casey comments that activities might require lower supervision requirements and tasks could assigned using handouts. Hammer notes the handouts were typically about Invasives or EAD etc. but the handouts could help create more options. Hammer comments if we picked 3 parks that might be manageable with 2 committee members at each park. Vile comments that the 3rd week in April would be better or even May. Spader asks if Buckthorn is easy to spot and if there are trails that need more work. Forrestdale and Saxon Hill might need some. Hammer agree that Spaeder and Madeline McHose from Parks could offer good suggestions. Schibler notes that the Saxon Hill is also managed by Fellowship of the Wheel for some trails but others need helps. Also suggests we should talk with Parks for their suggestions. Wood suggest we use Sign-Uo-Genius to organize volunteers and send follow up

communications. Clark adds that we could use photos and videos too. Hammer will follow up with the sub-committee

## **Trails**

Chuck Vile mentions that once the ground is visible, they'll be doing a trail tread / trail erosion evaluation. Botula ask if that will be in collaboration with Parks. Vile explains that this is following Forest and Parks guidance as normal protocol. Botula continues that the goal is to get the trails up and visible to the public with maps and descriptions. Botula to share with Spaeder the format of the descriptions to get them completed. Hammer adds that it would be good to do that in the other seasons. Schibler adds that wildlife tracking might be a fun thing to add to the mix.

## **EAB**

Schibler notes that they selected a contractor for the project, as noted in the packet. Info from VT Forestry on the invasive also included in the packet. Street Tree Dashboard. Schibler walked us the through the tool. Very easy to use and visual the data. Updates are needed, but CCRPC will need to make the edits. Botula asks if there is a unique ID number for each in the program , and Schibler notes the dat should be a there. leads to Schibler mentioning that it would be nice to have and adopt-a-tree program. CTC team please review the site and offer feedback.

## **Development review**

1 Kana Lane off of Center Rd

will add street trees (outside of the public right way) a gravel wetland and perhaps solar car ports, and a sidewalk connecting pedestrians to the buildings. Botuila asks if we have authority to recommend which trees get planted by developers. Schibler notes that yes, the Town can. Botula asks if Tree Warden can review and comment. Schibler will make a note of that

Old Colchester Rd - Greystone Industrial Park

three proposed warehouses. located well out of the wetland area. adequate erosion control. includes new street trees and shrubs near the buildings. Same comments about ensuring tree species diversity.

Essex Rescue site near Links at Lang Farm

3 area parcel indicating the location

19 Thompson on consent agenda

they're adding a chiller unit off the back. there are trail nearby and it would be nice to have easements

28 Gauthier Drive (off Bushey Lane)

Adding a second parking lot for overnight trucks. there will be a stormwater retention area with additional reviews.

44 Center Rd

existing house and garage, property to be divided into 2 lots. no comments

10 Corporate Drive (off Allen Marten)

three new warehouse units, with onsite stormwater on the site. street trees are red oak and red maple

## **Reading files**

Schibler call attention to upcoming seminars

UVM senior project that will serve towns about stormwater management

VT Tree steward awards through VT Urban Forestry. nominate someone.

Adjourned at 7:59 M