

Meeting Minutes for Conservation Commission Monthly Public Meeting

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

6:00 P.M. In-person at City Hall & Virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order on 6/18/2025 at 6:02 pm by Rose Vath.

Count of voting members: 7 (quorum)

Present Members: Rose Vath, Royce Meyer, Nolan Carver, Linden Chozinska, Jenn Brown, Paul Marangelo, Jas Smith, Keir Barbaro (Parks liaison)

Absent Members: Maddie Cotter

Rose Vath: Move to review and approve the meeting agenda

2nd: Jas

Vote: Unanimous Consent.

Motion **Passes.**

Agenda Items

1. **Rose Vath: Opens floor to Review and Approve Rescheduled April Meeting Minutes**

Vote: unanimous consent

Motion **passes.**

2. **Public Comment**

- No members of the public present

3. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for discussion: Design Review Board Permit Applications**

- a. 0 Gould Hill - Subdivision Proposal Recommendations

- George McCain: explains the project & reviews the map
- Wetlands & stream locations on property; plans for development will avoid the water features & riparian zone
- Rose: wanted to ask about the wetlands delineation, even though MCC doesn't have jurisdiction over this
- Discussion of parcel location & proximity to established trails; impact development may have on formerly undeveloped area; George & Amanda acknowledge the value of the land & offer reassurance that they also value its beauty in the Montpelier landscape

4. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for discussion: No Mow May - Pollinator Habitat Speaker Event Recap**

- The event went very well: about 26 people attended & showed great interest in the topic and the speakers, asked questions all the way up to the final moments.
- Ben Block discussed pollinators in re to home gardening
- Sarah discussed native plants
- Mark Ferguson discussed the Butterfly Atlas (statewide conservation efforts)
- Shout-out to Keir for setup and support
- Rose: looking forward to doing another event like this (with Paul's Streamwise workshop)
- Plan to do a similar event for next year's No Mow May?
- Possible partnership with Barr Hill's Bees Knees pollinator week, including a fundraiser to help support MCC projects (if permitted)
- "Bee the Change" = org that does pollinator gardens
- Question about commissions & fundraising: Keir? They will ask Alec to clarify the city's rules. All we need is \$50 of raised funds to pay dues for the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions! Also, some funds for matching in grant proposals, as well as possible cash for making yard signs for NMM and other initiatives.
- We might also do a BioBlitz on the new Hubbard Park parcel

5. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for discussion: Hubbard Park Signage Project Timelines**

- a. Update: Grant is pending signing the grant agreement. LCB has a couple of options:
 1. "Accelerated procurement process" if we start June 2025, but only 18 months to complete project.
 2. Do streamlined purchase order, but start June 2026.
- b. The trail is in phase 3, which means it is being built. Keir: it will definitely be done this summer, likely by August, and open to the public.
- c. We could start now & finish by Dec. 2026, with an intention of doing community engagement (open meetings to discuss placement and content of signs) after the trail officially opens. We'd invite the public to attend our pre-existing meetings to give input. At the end of the project, we'd offer a trail walk to intro the public to the signage and the trail itself.
- d. Interest in Trail Walk with Tim Duclos of VT Audubon? To help ID natural community boundaries & give opinion on what sort of info might be appropriate on the signs—maybe August/ September, maybe with Parks Commission, and perhaps invite public as well. **Rose** will send Doodle poll with dates.
- e. Thoughts about schedule? Generally, MCC members agree that starting now seems ideal.
- f. **Rose**: Motion to proceed with contract beginning this summer

2nd: **Jenn**

Motion **passes**.

6. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for:** Small Streams Workshop Update

- Paul: there was an end of May neighborhood meeting in Terrace area re: streams, with Adrienne Gill, DPW, they're facing numerous issues with the streams & culverts in the area, with streams jumping banks & coming into houses, etc. Any effort we do around these streams will have to navigate the reality that people in this neighborhood often just want to solve the water problem and preserve their houses
- Meeting with Sean Beckett and Michelle from Friends of the Winooski to discuss workshops: panel of experts with Michelle, Allison, and _____. Dates Nov. 4 & 11, two different neighborhoods.
- Content will be developed during the summer; intent to dovetail workshops with some happening in Plainfield in Sept, re: Great Brook, led by George Springston. Intent to cover as much ground as possible in 2 hours; including field walks. Hoping people will emerge with better understanding of why streams are behaving the way they are, how streams work in urban landscapes, a holistic view.
- Rose: let us know ways that MCC members can help/support workshops.

7. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for:** Parks Department Update

- New Trail in Hubbard completed by August, most likely.
- Closing in on New Shelter outhouse project (paused b/c of city budget freeze until July)
- Nolan: noticed the Tower needs sweeping. Keir: Yes. 100%.
- Nolan: I'm being harassed by drug dealers in the park regularly, am in contact with MPD, but want to put this info on our radar. Worried about being harmed.

8. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for discussion:** Topics for July Meeting

- Rose: hopefully we'll have a grant agreement to look over, as well as Streamwise update

9. **Rose Vath: Opens floor for discussion:** Round Robin

- Interest in Flood Resilience Presentation from Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program? Rose can coordinate to get it on the July agenda.
- Wetlands Mapping is being updated! The State's opening a portion of the map to public comment right now. Go to Vermont Natural Resources Atlas to participate.
- Join the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions listserv by emailing vtconservation+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Rose Vath: Motion to close the forum and adjourn.

2nd: Nolan

Vote: Motion Passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Next meeting is Wed., July 16, 2025, 6:00-7:30, hybrid at City Hall & on Zoom.

DRAFT