

Draft Minutes for Conservation Commission Monthly Public Meeting

City Manager's Conference Room

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

1. Called to Order at 7:00PM.
Jamie Bates, Alec Ellsworth, Page Guertin, Charlie Hohn, Michael Lazorchak, Phyllis Rubenstein, and Brenna Toman were present..
2. Review and Approve Agenda
Moved Alec's City Plan Update up in the agenda.
3. Approve Minutes from November
Minutes were approved and the motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment (Comments from the public on any matters not already listed on the agenda)
No additional members of the public present.
5. Appoint Officers: Chair & Secretary (discuss treasurer)
Brenna Toman was elected Chair, Page Guertin as Treasurer, and Jamie Bates as Secretary. Motions passed unanimously for each member and their suited positions. Reminder for members to be mindful of when they need to be reappointed. Website edits are needed for the new complete list of members and new positions.
6. City Plan Update (Alec) & MCC Aspirations (Phyllis and Brenna)
Alec is working with City of Montpelier Parks Department and Vermont River Conservancy to brainstorm projects that will be beneficial across groups, including MCC (i.e. combine the priority conservation lands map with the green print map, or hire a consultant to update map layers within the natural communities map). Alec will continue to provide updates on this. Alec, Jamie, and Charlie will be working on ways to refine existing maps with data available from the state (i.e. The Grand List, and ANR Atlas). Additionally, Alec mentioned a river hazard area regulations public hearing for an ordinance change proposed by 711D Planning Commission. Alec will be sending out information for members to review before the next meeting in January. We went over the list of 7 aspirations and decided to work on limiting this list down to about 3-4 items. Brenna will work on shortening the list and discuss next meeting. All members are requested to brainstorm key aspirations, goals, and strategies before next meeting. Once complete we will send these to Mike as soon as possible.
7. New member recruitment efforts
There are currently no new applications for open positions. Members should try to have a better presence on social media and invite your friends to like the Facebook page. Brenna will work with the Green Up Team out of Montpelier High School to recruit a new student liaison who can take on a conservation project of their choosing. The group agreed to make it a yearly task to update the brochure once a year. This brochure will be used as a handout at the farmers market, or for any MCC educational opportunities.
8. Rain Garden Update



Michael applied for and was awarded a Vermont Community Foundation grant of \$1000 to help with signage for the VSECU raingarden interpretive site. Holly Greenleaf will continue to help with designs when we are ready to move forward and have the full \$1800 allocated. Page plans to apply for an education and outreach grant available through the LCBP to support costs associated with the development of the Montpelier green infrastructure walking tour (i.e. printing costs); applications due by January 9th with no match required. Michael and Page are working together to cover which sites may need signs. The opening ceremony is projected to occur in the spring.

9. Other
10. Adjournment: 8:30 PM

Completed by Jamie Bates

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