

Conservation & Trails Committee. (CTC)
Essex Town Office, 81 Main Street, Essex, Vermont

Draft Minutes Tuesday 09/12/2023

Attending: Ken Signorello (Chair), Shannon Jackson (Vice Chair), Steve Dowd, Morgan Kirk (Clerk), Bino Cummings (remote), April Petersen, Kent Johnson

Absent: Betsy Dunn, Rusty Brink, Erin Devires

Members of the public: Jean Macbride (remote)- from Essex reporter, Patti Davis (remote), Lorraine Zaloom

Meeting called to order by: Ken at 6:31PM

1. AGENDA CHANGES AND APPROVAL

Shannon suggested to add USA tree items to action items

Ken suggested to cross off Explore Essex on action items due to Betsy being absent.

Steve: added tree nursery update information under reports.

Morgan: Approves

April: Seconds

Vote (y/n): 6/0

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

3. DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

a. 60 Colonel Page Road: Presented by Kent

1. Concern for needing more information from maps.
 - a. Some missing icons on the legend
2. Kent suggesting to deny the 60 Colonel Page rd review and re-evaluate due to lack of information
3. Steve has worries about water runoff pertaining to where the leach fields are placed.
4. Ken wants to make sure what is written "open space" they abide by. Repatitious nature of the project is reflected in the cost.
 - a. Kent will find how detailed how the inspection will be.
 - b. Patti suggests whole idea of open space was to keep scenic appearance without looking like a housing development
5. Act 171 will be considered (wildlife corridor)
6. Patti has concerns with erosion, wetlands and riparian buffers.

4. ACTION ITEMS

a. Adopt minutes

Changes: Ken- Adopted town plan action items- talk about work plan. Cross off work plan review and adoption (that all is town plan action items)

Shannon: Approves

Steve: Seconds

Vote (y/n): 6/0

b. CTC recommendations for the Town Plan:

i. Plan was sent in

ii. Ken marked the town plan as a draft.

1. Ken: suggested doing one more review due to the request from the chairman of the budget prioritization of the select board to add a boat access to the Winooski River along Rte. 117.

- Responsibility would be CTC, Parks and Recreation and public works.
- Funding: Winooski valley parks district.
- Mark as a short term item.
- April: Suggests to partner with friends of Winooski group.

Bino: Approves

Shannon: Seconds

Vote (y/n): 6/0

iii. Make town plan final

1. Steve suggests having additional pull off points for public viewing.

a. Ken opened up scenic overlay view district

Steve: Approves

April: Seconds

Vote (y/n): 6/0

Motion to make Town Plan file final:

Steve: Approves

Shannon: Seconds

Vote (y/n): 6/0

c. Work plan

Committee went over new assignments to work plan.

-Committee to vote on priority of items.

d. Tree City USA signs;

Shannon presents

Goal: "I motion to order from Tree City USA, pay for, and install four additional Tree City USA signs along the following major route of entry into the Essex Community";

1. VT Route 117 (Jericho/Richmond) East
2. VT Route 2A (Colchester) West
3. VT Route 128 (Westford) North
4. VT Route 15 (Essex Jct) South

Shannon: Approves

Ken: Seconds

Vote y/n: 6/0

5. REPORTS

- a. Park art updates- Move to 1st report do not hold up Lorraine From b. To a.

Motions: Ken

Seconds: Shannon

Laraine presents art update:

- i. Been donating time and materials (willows) of hearts and stars; she has been hanging around Indian Brook.
- ii. Morgan suggested other ways for community involvement pertaining to art and parks. Rock painting stations may be at an explore Essex event. Should use environmentally friendly supplies.

- b. Indian Brook Clean-Up Day: presented by Shannon

- i. move up hours by one hour. From 1pm to 12pm. New time will be 12PM-2PM on 21st. Rain day is 22nd 12PM-2PM.
- ii. Committee to advertise and promote time.
- iii. Bring any lawn tools

- c. Google Drive walk-through:(talked about out of order is report c. Not d.): not necessary for whole committee involvement at this time.

- d. Tree nursery update: Steve presented on this:

- i. No expectation in fixing shed
- ii. Plan is in place
- iii. Tree farm management group: to be aware of our active tree planting area
 - a.Ken talked to the group; they are hands off.
 - b.Kent will follow up if we are allowed to talk cut down the black walnut. Tom Yandow should be contacted regarding this project.

6. READING FILE

- a. Tiny Forests with Big Benefits article

i. Shannon commented on reading file: pathway around lake handicapped accessible; it wouldn't take a lot of work to get Indian Brook in that state as well.

7. ADJOURN: at 8:23PM

Motion: Shannon

Seconds: Morgan

Vote (y/n): 6/0