

DRAFT

Meeting Notes Natural Resources and Conservation Committee 7:00 PM Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Attendees: Gail, Don, Bob, Jon, Christine, Sean, Fred & Chandler. Mike unable to attend.

Guests: Town Clerk Diana Vachon, Jim White & Susan (No last name)

- Gail called meeting to order at 7:03pm
- Bob volunteered to be minute taker
- Reviewed and approved the agenda
- Motion: Don moved, Gail 2nd
- Reviewed and approved January and February minutes
- Motion: Christine moved, Bob 2nd
- No Public Comments
- Development Review – No items requiring SNRCC review
- Discussion with Diana Vachon on UVM Professor Brendan Fisher's upcoming talk at the Municipal Clerks Annual Meeting. Diana asked for SNRCC members' views on short and long term challenges our Town faces on conservation and community planning. Members shared their concerns that regulations don't necessarily match the Town Plan goals and support the VCRD Community Visit/public participation process. Development is coming all at once and there isn't time to for a long drawn out re-write of regulations. Some interim action is needed. While there is support for conservation and environmental protection, public engagement and voting participation needs to be improved. (31% participation in most recent elections referenced.) Climate change migration was cited in the context of the need for increased population and housing which will need a

framework to address while still protecting the natural environment. SNRCC's ongoing frustration with the unworkable current development review input procedures and efforts to fulfill its advisory role was a recurring theme in the discussion

- Wildlife Habitat Assessment RFP was discussed and Jon's excellent drafting efforts were duly noted. A number of constructive edits were made and it was agreed that the application deadlines should be extended. Bob agreed to help develop the RFP mailing list and it was agreed that Lee and Adele would be asked if they had any additions to the list we compile.
- Meeting Schedule: It was decided that in order to be able to review and submit timely comments in the current unsatisfactory development review process, SNRCC would hold a second meeting date open as needed. The interim meeting schedule would be set for the second and fourth Wednesday of each month knowing it might be difficult to get a quorum every time for the second meeting.
- Community Values Mapping Program: Don presented a grant opportunity, but due to the short timeline and the many other pressing issues facing the SNRCC the consensus was to hold off or now on this program and grant opportunity.
- Due to the hour, Don's briefing on the Shelburne Road Form Based Regulations was reschedule for the next meeting.
- SNRCC strategic planning discussion continued on how to get SNRCC input into the process in a timely way. It was agreed that a clarification of Section 600's role in the regulatory process fit into the "work in progress" method currently underway. Don raised the example of missing a deadline as one way to call attention to the fact that the DRB and Planing Commission process does not work for the SNRCC. Gail suggested members contact select board members individually to push for Town participation in the VCRD Community Visit Program. It was also suggested to invite newly elected select board member Matt Wormser to the next meeting.
- There were no conservation projects pending to require an executive session

- Under updates and new business Gail said that a new DRB coordinator had been hired and would be coming on board later this spring. She also recommended we hold our next meeting in person to update the SNRCC photo and perform the annual organization votes.
- Jon made a motion to adjourn at 9:15pm, Bob 2nd.