

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 19, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bo Gibbs, Lynn Peterson, Cyndy Kozara, Howard Krum
MEMBERS ABSENT: Byron Quinn, Al Alessi, Bethany Powers
OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Brands

I. OPENING OF MEETING

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

II. MINUTES

Approval of the May 15, 2019 minutes was continued.

III. APPLICATION REVIEW

A. T-4920-19 Palandjian

Application is for Conditional Use approval to bury powerlines, etc. within the riparian buffer. The property is located at 1959 Cox District Road and is zoned Residential Five Acre.

The applicant did not show, the hearing was continued to the July 17, 2019 meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Town Plan Update

On July 3, 2019, the PC will hold a public hearing on the proposed Energy Chapter rewrite. The rewrite once adopted in conjunction with a separate review for PSB compliance by TRORC would allow the Town to participate in the review process of alternative energy sites such as solar farms.

B. Plastic Bag Ban

The State bill banning the typical plastic bags used for grocery shopping has been signed by the governor. It would become effective within 18 months to allow businesses to adopt to the new regulation.

C. Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Peterson gave a brief update. At the most recent 3rd Monday of the month meeting, 10 Dartmouth forestry students presented their finished report on an analysis of carbon storage in the Calvin Coolidge forest. The report noted wood product and logging

businesses in Vermont are suffering. Logging mills are closing and insurance rates for the business in general are becoming unmanageable.

The Dartmouth report was very detailed, with strong support from the forestry professors.

Financing (private and public investment) of carbon sequestration is waning on a down curve. This needs to change if any immediate or near future benefits are to be achieved.

Unfortunately, a meeting with a Forest Parks and Recreation official, did not go as well. The official was very negative concerning the use of State forest for carbon storage.

Mr. Peterson would like to see a poster that shows how the carbon sequestration process works and what benefits could be expected. The Town Planner noted Mr. Caduto, a known writer and story teller, is hoping to find time to work on this.

Ms. Gibbs suggested this would be a great project for the schools.

Mr. Krum felt action points should be highlighted to create a path for future implementation.

Zach Ralph is working with the Dartmouth students and professors to see if the project can move forward. What could be the next steps after the report.

Mr. Peterson would like to see a viable system created to measure carbon within the forest. For example, tree borings could be used to reveal carbon content.

V. OTHER BUSINESS - None

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2019.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Michael Brands, AICP
Town Planner