

CONSERVATION & TRAILS COMMITTEE (CTC)
Essex Town Offices, 81 Main St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452

DRAFT Minutes of Tuesday, September 14, 2021

In attendance: Alan Botula, Chair; Mike Spaeder, Vice Chair; Casey Clark

Town Staff present: Darren Schibler, Town Planner; Chuck Vile, Town Forester

Others: Ken Signorello, Steve Dowd, Betsy Dunn, Shannon Jackson, Patty Davis, Mark Ferrara, David Skopin

AGENDA ITEM #1: Public Comments

Botula called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Several people spoke during public to be heard about their interest in the committee and its work.

Schibler announced that Kim Tetrault had resigned from the CTC due to family and medical issues, leaving 4 vacancies.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Agenda Changes and Approval

There were no changes to the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Election of Clerk, Recruitment

No candidates for the position of Clerk were nominated, since the CTC expected many new members as a result of recent recruitment efforts.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Minutes

Minutes were not discussed due to lack of a quorum.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Fall Clean-Up Preparation

The CTC discussed logistics for the upcoming Fall Clean-Up event at Indian Brook Park on Saturday, September 27 from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Ash Tree Re-Inventory

The CTC reviewed the results of the re-inventory and discussed quality-checking the data. Once finished, it could be used to derive cost estimates for insecticide treatment as well as prioritize proactive removals. Schibler recommended that the CTC prepare a presentation to the Selectboard in the next month before they finalize the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Schibler also announced another grant opportunity available from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program.

AGENDA ITEM #7: Adopt-a-Tree

Schibler and Botula reviewed the task list and timeline of the program. The CTC and other attendees discussed how to make tree tags and how much budget would be needed. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8: Development Review

Schibler reviewed new development applications coming up in the next month. Aside from continued concern over the proposed Pinewood Section I development, the CTC had no comments on these projects.

AGENDA ITEM #10: Reading File

Schibler pointed out that the schedule for the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions annual summit has been released.

Botula adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Minutes submitted by Darren Schibler, Town Planner