

## Montpelier Conservation Commission (MCC) - April 13, 2017

7:00 – 9:00 pm; Montpelier City Council Chambers

MCC Members: James Brady, John Jose, Emily Byrne, Glennie Sewell, Brenna Toman, Nick Giannetti, Charlie Hohn, Roy Schiff, Geoff Beyer

- Meeting called to order
- Agenda approved as amended
- Comments from the public – no members of the public present
- Kate Stephenson – Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) successes
  - EAC organization
  - Four sub groups with about three action items each
    - Have a convener for each sub group
      - Convener reports out to the larger group at the monthly meeting
  - City Plan could be a great excuse to merge different interests and agenda items between EAC and MCC
    - Each commission should review each other commission's City Plan chapter
  - Energy Commission uses Google Groups and Google Drive
- Meeting with Montpelier Parks Commission (MPC) and Montpelier Conservation Commissioner and Jon Anderson from the Montpelier Planning Commission to discuss Official Map and zoning
  - Parks Commission Members present: Dan Dickerson, Carolyn Grodinsky, Geoff Beyer (liaison between MCC and MPC)
  - Started with Jon Anderson
  - Carolyn is interested in know how zoning can be used to address conservation
    - MCC members explained how the conservation priorities map was not seen as a good model in the City's Lawyer's eyes
  - Introductions – MCC, MPC, Jon Anderson
  - Jon explained how an official map is used and what it can do
    - Different types of tools
      - Zoning
      - Official Map
        - These are privately owned areas that the citizens of Montpelier hope to own as public land in the future
        - When someone asks to develop a piece of land, the city is given the right of first refusal
        - Another tool is to put money aside and purchase the land
        - Official Map does not require a lot of process to become part of the city
        - Can include as much or as little information
        - Map can be amended as much and as often as needed
        - Jon offered to help out as much as needed
        - (Parks Commission) what would allow us to single out land on an Official Map, but not in zoning?

- Priority Natural Resources Map is regulatory, but the city can't buy land for a park as a regulatory tool
    - Draft map from MCC includes the Green Print and "charrettes" of different trail priorities
    - Jon Recommended making the language on the Official Map as clear and concise as possible
    - Carolyn – where does the Official Map live?
      - Need to confirm, but it likely lives by itself
    - Carolyn Grodinsky – Have the map but also work on how it's referenced in the zoning
      - It's in the city council's hands for taking up the issue
      - This may come down to challenging the legal recommendation
      - It was in the zoning but was challenged and taken out
    - There is state law on how Official Maps are implemented
    - Where does an Official Map live in other towns?
      - Chelchester has one on their website
    - Should there be a sub group that includes members from the Parks Commission, Conservation Commission, and the Planning Commission?
    - James will redo the draft of the Official Map and send out for comments
      - Parks, Trails, Existing (one color)
    - Roy – Would be more powerful if it came from both commissions
    - Roy will work on language for the Charrettes
    - Carolyn will work on the language for the Green Print
    - James will work on update of map
      - Will work with Geoff on the map
      - Sub group to work on making sure the map is clear and legal
- Strategic Plan
  - Draft of the narrative
  - Aspirations, goals, strategies
  - Doodle Poll for an extra meeting
- Google Group – James to setup
- John – what is the size of our group? How do establish what our size is or should be
  - There is a vacant Alternate position
- James - Vernal Pools wetlands project
- Geoff – NCCC Group coming to working with invasives
  - Geoff will keep us posted
  - Coming end of April, starting in May
  - Green Up Day May 6
- Adjourned – 9pm