

WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING HELD ON: May 11, 2022
Minutes - - (DRAFT COPY)

PRESENT: Rich Turner, CH, David Traczyk, Susan Lyons, Horace Duke, Jasmin Couillard
GUESTS: Jens Hilke from Fish & Wildlife & Rich Chalmers from VT Coverts

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Motion made to approve the Agenda made by Jasmin C., 2nd by Dave T.

New Business:

Rich T. I want to welcome our guests tonight – Jens Hilke is a Conservation Planner for VT Fish & Wildlife. Our town Plan needs to be up-dated and Jens is here to talk with us about this.

Jens Hilke: I have a presentation to show you and speak about your forests and ways to maintain and connect them to keep wildlife movement available and safe. More people are moving into small VT Towns and in this process the towns are losing connecting forest patterns.

Some of the items that were talked about:

Climate Change is also an issue.

Act 171 – Adopted Jan. 1, 2018 –

Re-do maps in our Town Plan

Identify Wildlife Crossings

Check out – Conservation Design – Biofinder.vt.gov

Goals: Maintain large forest blocks and Estate Planning

Undersize culverts were the cause of flooding so our culverts and bridges are being upgraded and this will allow wildlife to cross more safely.

Look into adopting Orange Book Standards of VTrans - -

Highways & Habitats and River & Roads - - (Designed for Towns)

2 books that might be helpful: VT Natural Resource Atlas, Mapping VT Natural Heritage (2018) & Community Strategies for VT (Forest & Wildlife (VNRC)

Rich T. Thank You Jens for the presentation.

Rich Chalmers: VT Coverts.org - - Program is a non-profit organization. Their goal is to help people who own wood lands. There are 2-3 day training sessions available as well as (30-40) workshops throughout the year that are held throughout VT. There is an “e-news” listing that you can subscribe to. (Vermont Coverts is a peer-to-peer community of landowners, professionals and others learning from and supporting each other to enhance wildlife habitats through sound forest management.)

Rich T. Thanked Rich Chalmers also for coming to the meeting and talking to us about the VT Coverts program.

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Old/New Business:

- Rich T. It's 8:20 p.m. so let's start our regular meeting. Do I have a Motion for the March 9th Minutes?
- Jasmin C. I'll make the Motion to approve the March 9th minutes as written. 2nd by Dave T.
All approved.
- Rich T. Spoke about the Board of Commissioners Meeting and the Bill S-148 that had been passed by the House & Senate and was waiting for the Governor's signature.
Re the EAB - - Rich, Dave T and the Williamstown Youth Sports Association have been planting the trees that Rich had picked up. Still more to plant.
Also handed out an e-mail for an event coming up May 24, 6-8 pm at U-32 High School. This event will be discussing EAB and Resilient Roads. Event is free, but registration is required.
Hard copy to be made for Horace Duke.
Suggestion to give this information to our new Road Foreman.
- Rich T. Any other Business to discuss? None - -
- Jasmin C. I will make the Motion to adjourn – 2nd by Dave T.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 P.M.
- Next Meeting is for: June 8, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.
