



**Town of Stowe
Conservation Commission
Monday November 25, 2024
MEETING MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Conservation Commission was held on Monday November 25, 2024, at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held via zoom. Commission Members in Attendance: Jacquie Mauer, Phillip Branton, Evan Freund, and Seb Sweatman. Staff in Attendance: Sarah McShane. Student Representatives in Attendance: Maddie Lawver and Sophia Brasse. Others in Attendance: Carolyn Lawrence.

Call to Order- J.Mauer called the meeting to order at approximately 5:39 PM.

Public Comments & Adjustments to the Agenda – C.Lawrence of Stowe Trails Partnership reported that the Selectboard approved the Stowe Village Inn Connector. Otherwise, no public comments were received.

Review Meeting Minutes [10/28/2024] S.Sweatman requested that the prior meeting minutes be amended to insert the word 'data' as follows:

*The Commission recommends all economic costs and benefits **data** be captured by the Town of Stowe and be made available to the public.*

On a motion by P.Branton, seconded by E.Freund, the amended minutes of the prior meeting passed without opposition.

Mayo Farm Ag Lease- Members discussed the wet area surrounding Field G. The Commission discussed recommending that the area is not mowed and be left to re-wild, noting that the mowed path might need to be adjusted/relocated. Members discussed how the lands should remain within the agricultural lease but under the terms that they not be mowed. J.Mauer will draft the recommendation letter and recirculate it for discussion at the next meeting.

Cady Hill Forest Management Plan- Members discussed the motorized grooming provision in the current management plan and process for amending the plan. Members discussed how the entire plan should be reviewed to ensure a change to allow motorized grooming does not conflict with other elements of the plan or easement. Members discussed timing and other anticipated projects requiring the Commission's attention. C.Lawrence shared comments noting that current STP volunteers would welcome the change to allow motorized grooming. S.McShane will develop a google form which can be circulated to gather public comments. C.Lawrence agreed to post it in their December newsletter. The Commission will discuss again during next meeting.

Student Representative Projects. Members discussed possible projects for student representatives. Students Maddie Lawver and Sophia Brasse both showed an interest in gathering trail condition data. E.Freund will circulate a 1-page trail conditions survey to document observations. S.Sweatman shared his water quality observations from Sterling Forest. J.Mauer agreed to share information on the Pollinator Pathways meetings. She also provided an update from Peter Danforth on riparian buffer plantings.

Next Meeting Date- 12/09/2024. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McShane- Planning & Zoning Director