Natural Resources Committee
October 8, 2014 at 2:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendance
Natural Resources Committee present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen and Lynette Hamilton
Community Development Committee present: Norm Wright, Greg Brown, Gretchen Haverluk, Jane Morano Purdy, Lynn Barrett, and Roger Turner
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Kim Smith

The meeting was called to order at 2:40pm.

Minutes
- The minutes of September 10, 2014 Natural Resources Committee were approved with one abstention (motion by N. Bartenhagen, second by M. Bartenhagen).

Potential educational/informational forums
- **Emerald ash borer (EAB):** K. Smith reported that Bob Everingham (Brattleboro resident) and Mark Whitmore (Cornell University Cooperative Extension) are willing to speak at an EAB event; however due to limited speaker availability in November, the Committee agreed to postpone the event until January/February.
- **Bees, Bats, and Habitats:** K. Smith reported that Alyssa Bennett (VT Fish and Wildlife Service) could speak on bats. It was recommended that the event be moved forward to mid-November due to the postponement of the EAB forum. Committee members suggested a 2-hour meeting with presentations lasting 20-40 minutes, followed by a Q&A and ending with a ½-hour of networking/refreshments. The Committee recommended that WRC staff speak with potential speakers about recommended topics, such as toxins in store-purchased plants, land management, impact that honeybees have on native bees, and ecological impacts of population declines.
- **Biomass:** The Committee agreed to meet next from 7-9pm on November 6 in order to meet jointly with the Energy Committee from 7-8pm.

Other business
- David Deen will be joining the Natural Resources Committee.
- The VT DEC released the Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Protection Procedure for public comment. Comments are due on November 3, 2014.
• There will be River Corridor Public Meetings on October 14, 2014 for the Wardsboro and Winhall Rivers and October 23, 2014 for the Green River.

Next meeting
• The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 2:00pm** (second Wednesday of the month)

Regional agriculture:
• The Natural Resources and Community Development Committee had a joint meeting to discuss the regional agriculture forum. WRC staff opened the discussion by saying that the current intent is to organize a facilitated discussion focused on understanding what role the WRC can play in making the agricultural industry more vital. It was suggested that WRC staff contact other RPCs to determine what they are doing to support agriculture and arrange a number of one-on-one discussions with individuals from within the agricultural industry over the next year. This information can be used to inform a facilitated conversation. Committee members recommended including staff time for this effort in the FY2016 budget.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:13pm**

*Respectfully submitted, Kim Smith*