Natural Resources Committee  
December 10, 2014 at 2:00 pm  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance  
Natural Resources Committee present: Maggie Bartenhagen (Chair), Nick Bartenhagen, and Andy Toepfer  
Staff present: Kim Smith and Jeff Nugent

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm with a quorum present and led by Maggie Bartenhagen.

Addition or removal of agenda items
- There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes
- The minutes of November 12, 2014 Natural Resources Committee were approved by consensus (motion by A. Toepfer, second by N. Bartenhagen).

Forest Stewardship Discussion
- J. Nugent stated that he met with the Forest Stewardship Steering Committee on November 5 to discuss the Forest Stewardship report. He had received comments to the Threats, Barriers and Limitations and Strategies chapters from a number of reviewers and was working on integrating the comments. The report does not have legal standing but may be used by towns in the development of town plans. There was discussion about how the report would be used, key themes, and recommended strategies. Key themes that emerged were the need for more education and outreach about land management and the accessibility of resources to landowners, Real Estate agents, and the general public. There was discussion about adding goals or category headings to the Strategies chapter as a means to organize action items. When asked how WRC could most effectively spend its time supporting forest stewardship, the Committee indicated that education and increased public visibility of forest management and related issues were among the most important. It was agreed that J. Nugent would send a full draft plan to the Committee for their review once completed.
CEDF Modern Wood Heating Program
  • K. Smith provided an update on CEDF’s Request for Proposals on the MWH Program. The Committee discussed what sustainability means and that it should consider the whole system, rather than just sustainable yield. It was suggested that the program could tie in with Antioch’s Environmental Conservation Program.

Update on recent projects/programs
  • EAB Public Forum: The EAB workshop previously scheduled in January was canceled because Caitlin Cusack became unavailable. Jim Esden is willing to present; however the event will need to be rescheduled for February.
  • Vermont Watershed Grant: The WRC submitted an application to do an assessment and plan for mitigating an unsuccessful bed armoring treatment on Adams Brook in Newfane.

Next meeting
  • Unless otherwise decided, the next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 2:00pm** (second Wednesday of the month)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Kim Smith