Natural Resources Committee
August 15, 2012 meeting
Approved Minutes

Attendance
Commissioners: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nicholas Bartenhagen, John Whitman, Andy Toepfer, Alice Maes, Lynette Hamilton, Jenna Pugliese by phone

Staff: Dinah Reed.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 P.M.

Minutes - Draft Minutes of the June meeting; approved as written.

Discussion about Summit Roundtable Meeting on Sept. 26th.
- The committee recommended we have three speakers to give 20 minute presentations. The types of presentations recommended were decided as; 1) Stream Geomorphic Assessments (SGA), 2) Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) new revisions, and 3) Fisheries.
- Suggestions were made who to contact for retaining speakers for AMPs and Fisheries. Dinah agreed to make contact and invite those folks to the meeting.
- Format for Sept. meeting – Speakers give presentations, take a break for networking, end with a mini-panel where Q&A would involve all three speakers at the same time.
- Suggestion was made to see if Southern Windsor Conservation Commissions would like to come -- since the location is in Grafton and close to their region.

Discussion about Natural Resources Chapter
- It was noted that the topic of “Agriculture” is not specifically addressed within any chapter. It is addressed under Economy, but the committee feels it should have its own heading, have language regarding the fact that is one of the economic drivers in our region. It was recommended that the topic of Agriculture could also address its function as a floodplain, and the importance that land be kept as open space and continue to be used as Agriculture versus development in floodplains.
- Benefits of Agriculture –
  - CSAs
  - There is an “agriculture renaissance”, to encourage that movement
○ Advantage to small-scale agriculture is the proximity to towns/villages (close by)
  – this is also true of forestry
○ We will eventually lose our local feed stores, but could prevent this with policies
  that keep agriculture local
• If “Agriculture Chapter” is well written it will…
  ○ Address economic activity
  ○ Keep the landscape in Vermont looking traditional (scenic resource)
  ○ Serve to keep our floodplains functional
  ○ Maple syrup
  ○ CSAs located on edge of villages with curb sprawl
  ○ Open land – connecting of agriculture and forestry
• Mention of invasive species in Natural Resource Chapter – impacts
• Mention of Ridgeline Development - impacts

The Natural Resources Committee also asked if the WRC has formed a specific committee for
updating the Regional Plan? Should “Agriculture” be inserted into the Natural Resources
Chapter or the Land Use Chapter, or another section?

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed