Natural Resources Committee
November 28, 2012 meeting
Approved Minutes

Attendance
Commissioners: Maggie Bartenhagen, Nicholas Bartenhagen, John Whitman, Andy Toepfer, Steve Skibniowsky, Edie Mas, Lynnette Hamilton

Staff: Dinah Reed

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M.

Minutes - Draft Minutes of the October meeting were approved as written.

Comments to Vermont Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- General observation by Committee was that a lot of data was gathered and presented, but it had not been digested or analyzed. The action plan was missing with any kind of Conclusion.
- Committee would like to see the action plan convey concrete measures how the state will address natural resources issues that occur when the public uses the wilderness to recreate. For example, how do you keep a cap on pollution issues, noise and light issues?
- There has been no mention of financial or conflict of interest issues, with solutions.
- Does the plan go beyond just serving the purpose of getting grant funding? Is it meant to influence policy in other plans?
- Comments by the Committee will be added to the draft letter started by the Community Development Committee, and forwarded to Ed O’Leary at the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and recreation by Friday, November 30th.

Ryder Pond Dam Removal in Jacksonville
- Dinah offered a little more information than the application gave, that she obtained by being in touch with the contact person for the Homeowners Association, and Marie Caduto, Watershed Coordinator for our region.
  - Homeowner stated that a dam engineer, Ed Floyd from Ludlow, inspected the dam and said it should be removed for safety reasons. That the pond should be restored to its natural state of 40 years ago which was a small stream and wetland environment.
  - Marie Caduto emailed her comment that before removing the dam, a thorough study should be conducted to assess rare species and the wetland.
Committee agreed to write a comment letter reflecting Marie Caduto’s suggestion. Also to add the question, if the Homeowners Association is comfortable with the fire protection in that area, and if they have considered the option of a fire pond with dry hydrant?

Regional Plan Update
- After discussion, it was agreed that we would add our individual comments on the plan chapters via the website.
- The next step will be to review, as a Committee, the comments posted to the website.
- Dinah will email to everyone the comments made previously (a few months ago).
- Other comments about Natural Resources Chapter brought up:
  - Under Surface Water Section – there is not a main sub-header for Streams/Rivers.
  - Committee would like to see Jeff’s undeveloped stream study research be included with policy relating to it.
  - Committee would like to see a recommendation added that the undeveloped stream study research be expanded to entire region.
- Dinah was asked to inquire if WRC could make a graphic “announcement” linking to the WRC website, that towns could add to their town WebPages.

Agenda ideas for next meeting
- Regional Plan Update
- Winter Quarter Conservation Summit

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed