Natural Resources Committee
December 19, 2012 meeting
Approved Minutes

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

Staff: Dinah Reed

Guest: Commissioner Alice Maes

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

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

Regional Plan Update – Comments/Concepts by Committee
- To be looking at the appropriate uses of our natural resources in conjunction with protecting our natural resources. Since Vermont land is largely owned by private individuals vs. timber companies and the government, much as it the way in the West, it’s important to have policies that allow private individuals to use our natural resources for our betterment with regards to recreation, fuel, livelihood, etc. Exploitation of natural resources in Vermont is not nearly the problem that you see in large western states.
- Sustainable harvesting – reducing the carbon footprint
- Plan does not substantially address climate change or pollution issues – idea of a forest as a “carbon sink”.
- Discussed the resort industry in our region –
  - Impoundments – how can we impound water for snow making without impacting the environment?
  - Responsibility of resorts cleaning up their sites or re-forested the landscape after they go out of business (ex: Maple Valley Ski Area)
  - Recommend that policies are put in place that when large commercial deals are made they are contingent on decommissioning policies if they go bankrupt.
- We need to be cognizant the policies in the Natural Resources Chapter do not create conflicts with policies in other chapters.

Conservation Commissions – next Summit meeting
• Discussed email from Dummerston Conservation Commission (Mary Copeland) regarding invitation to hold a Summit meeting for Conservation Commissions only, to help them how to be a more effective Conservation Commission.
  o Natural Resources Committee agreed that Dinah attend their next meeting to get a better understanding of what they would like to do. Bring it back to our Committee.
  o But to also have a Conservation Summit forum held in late March or April that follows the format we have been doing previously.
  o Suggestion was made to look up VNRCs Conservation Commission link.

**Agenda ideas for next meeting**

- Regional Plan Update
- Winter/Spring Quarter Conservation Summit

**The meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Reed