

The Delany Committee
Unofficial Minutes
December 11, 2017

Members in attendance: Joe Phillips, Rich Holcomb, Ellen Malona, Cathy Walker, Tracee Rupe, Tim Makepeace, Rich Holcomb

Audience: Paul Woodruff

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Tim.

The minutes from October 2017 and November 2017 were read and there were several notes. BuckSnort is the name of the newest trail in the Delaney Woods per the Slate Valley Trails newsletter of Oct. 2017. Also, Cathy has not yet talked with Bill Alexander regarding the trail map signs stating human power only. According to our conservation agreement with Vermont Land Trust (VLT) motorized vehicles are restricted, but horses, etc. are not. Ellen told us that her friend that has a solar company is named Bill Campbell. He advised her to have the long side of the pavilion face the lake/beach area to capture the most solar benefit, as well as view. Tracee told us that Tim Chimielewski had donated some blue blazing paint he uses to the committee to help us mark the trails in Delaney woods. This paint is longer lasting in the weather than regular paint. Ellen and Cathy agreed that it will be used to mark what is now the green trail. After this discussion the motion was made to accept the minutes by Rich, Joe seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Tracee told us that she believes the balance in our account had not changed.

Tracee told us that the town of Wells had received a letter from Ms. Z. Courage, the District Wetland Ecologist, informing us that some of the parking lot, porto potty, RJ's garden and barbeque grills are encroaching on the wetland buffer zone. Ms.Courgae is willing to settle the violation by having the town pay a fine of \$.25 per sq. foot of infraction, which she has figured is about 7500 sq. feet. That results in an \$1875.00 fine, and a \$240.00 administration fee. Tracee has been looking into this. She located the wetland survey in a photo on the ANR website. She has also looked thru the baseline documents we have from the VLT when we purchased the land. It does not denote any wetland near the parking lot. Tracee spoke with Pam Burlingame, our VLT partner, to see if the VLT has any experience or resources to help us with this claim. Pam stated that at the time of

our agreement they had no wetland specialist on staff, and so it may not have been included on our baseline report. Tracee has asked if the wetland specialist they have now will work with us on this. She is waiting to hear from Pam.

Tracee and Tim noted this situation has come to light thru the permitting process that Lake St. Catherine Conservation Committee (LSCCC) (Is this the correct title?) has initiated for their weed harvesting program.

Tracee had a printed map of the lakeside park wetlands, with the buffer zones drawn in. It was clear from the map that the barbeque grills are well outside of the zone. The thought is that Ms. Courage may be mistaking the rocks of the parking lot border for them. She also noted that there was some gravel under the portopotty, which is not true. Felix told us he installed the grills in June of 2012, and wanted to know if there is a statute of limitations from this rule. The access road we use, and the dock area preexisted this rule.

Tracee says the key is the impervious surfaces – i.e. gravel vs. grass. Perhaps we can remediate some of the surfaces? Cover the gravel with dirt? There was discussion about this point. Felix asked about the parking lot. He reminded us that VLT gave us permission to build it, and the size of it. Tracee said that it wasn't the size that was in question as much as the proximity to the wetland barrier zone. In the end it was decided to invite Ms. Courage to come and visit the site, along with committee members and a selectman.

Our discussion turned to the pavilion. Ellen told us that the gentleman who volunteered to help us with the pavilion works for a company that employees structural engineers, but isn't one himself. The question of having our plans looked at by an engineer was raised. Cathy wants to be sure that we have a sound building, and cover ourselves for any liability. Rich and Ellen say that whom ever sells us our rafters will have an engineer design them, and so we will be covered by that.

Tim said we need to have plans drawn up. He is so busy he can't do it. He asked who can. Curtis Lumber or Morton are qualified to do so. Rich graciously volunteered to take care of having the plans drawn up. There was discussion about having to put the project out to bid, and questioning if Morton or Curtis would be slighted by this. Rich said he would tell them about the bidding process, and see if they are willing to do it with a fee. Tim called up the bid he got from Morton last year, for a 30'X40' building with a metal roof, pressure treated wooden poles, and metal upper facias, no ceiling inside and 12" overhang. It was \$20,400.00 for the

materials and construction. It did not include site prep, drainage, or a concrete foundation. There was some discussion about the budget at that point.

Cathy updated the committee on the grant process. She had attended a meeting in November with the other recipients, and learned that the grant was aimed to help towns evaluate what their town forests are going to be used for, to work with the different ideas in a town, gather public input and create a management plan and action plan to be used for grant writing, and town reference. The emphasis was on developing an overview of land use. In a one to one meeting with Kate Forrier she had expressed our need to have help writing an actual forest management plan that VLT would accept. One that delineates forestry practices, goals, and uses. Kate said that this grant does not include anything that specific.

She learned that the next step in this grant process would be to have the consultant the Dept. of Parks and recreation has hired come to Wells, do a site tour, meet with the committee to discuss ideas, and then hold a public forum/meeting for the public input on Jan 15th. Cathy has met with Pam Burlingame of the VLT, who along with Ellen, had recommended this grant specifically to help us complete our forest management plan. She explained the what she had learned, and told about the help we had hoped to get. Pam was surprised, and said she would contact a colleague who had alerted her to the grant. Pam later told Cathy she had learned that her colleague's client was having the same issue. Pam has a call into Kate Forrier to discuss this situation.

Cathy offered 3 options to deal with this grant.

- A. Go along with the process, do all the work, and develop a document to use for grant writing.
- B. Ask Kate if there is a forestry consultant who can work with us on the specific need we have.
- C. If there is no help available to us for completing our management plan, withdraw from the program so that the fund can benefit those who need it.

Public comment was taken throughout the meeting.

After some discussion Rich made the motion to go for option B, or C. Joe seconded it, and it was pass unanimously.

Felix made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe seconded it, it passed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm

Submitted this day Dec. 13, 2017 by Cathy Walker secretary.