

The Delany Committee
Unofficial Minutes
January 8, 2018

Members in attendance: Joe Phillips, Rich Holcomb, Cathy Walker,
Tracee Rupe, Felix Reed

Audience: Paul Woodruff Jr., Ron Bremer, Tammy Holcomb, Joel Pliner, Fran
Gilman, Zapata Courgae

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

The minutes from December 2017 were read and there was 1 correction. The addition of a comment by Joe that there had been some vandalism to a tree stand in the Delaney Woods. Tracee made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction, Joe seconded it, and all were in favor.

Tracee told us there had been no changes in the balance of our account, and that next month she would have a print out for the committee's account.

Cathy advised the committee that she and Pam Burlingame, of the Vermont Land Trust had had a phone conversation with Katherine Forrier, the contact person for the forest management grant we had been awarded. Katherine told her that this grant's purpose was not to write individual management plans, but to help a town work with all the interested parties in creating goals for town forest use, and crafting a general plan for implementing those goals. Cathy withdrew Wells from the grant program, and wished the funds to be used by a town who need this kind of help. Katherine said she had a town in mind, and would give them the good news that they had been accepted in the program. The committee had no further questions on the grant.

Tracee introduced us to Zapata Courage, who had come at Tracee's invitation, to help us understand the wetland laws she has found the Lakeside Park/Town of Wells in violation of. At last month's meeting, the committee had learned of these violations via a letter from the state. Zapata was very detailed and informative in her explanation of how the state statues are written, their goals and purposes, and how she evaluated the Lakeside Park infractions. There was a lengthy discussion with the committee members, Joel and Fran, and our select board. Zapata told us

that we had disturbed the soils and put in place impermeable surfaces in constructing the park, based on a 2011 ariel photo of the park. Our port o potty, BBQ grills, and the rock in the drainage ditch of RJ's garden were the focus of much of our infringements in the 50 foot buffer zone of the wetland area. But these are "permittable" violations, meaning we do not have to remove them, we can pay the fine of approximately \$1850.00, or we can remove them and remediate the area by replacing the soil and planting native trees and plants. The fine is based on a violation of 76500 sq. feet, @ \$.25 per sq. foot, plus an additional administration fee of \$240.00. The committee also learned that Ms. Courage cannot issue the permit to the Lake St. Catherine Conservation Committee that they need to construct the road for weed harvesting without the Lakeside Park issues being resolved because the permit is for use on the same property – Lakeside Park.

The committee needs to decide how to deal with this issue and send the letter of resolution to Zapata with the permit application by mid-march.

The committee thanked Zapata for all for her time and effort, and very educational help, and she left at this point.

After some discussion about how to reduce the fine, and the logistics of remediation, ???Cathy or Tammy? made a motion to pay the fine. Joe seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

Tammy told us that the Modern Woodman of America (MWA) offer a matching grant to their chapter of up to \$5000.00.and hoped we would be interested it. It would certainly help defray the cost of the wetland fine. Yes, we would! Cathy will write a letter of interest to the MWA and get it to Tammy this week.

Conversation turned to the plans of the pavilion. There were still loose ends in who was doing what for it. Felix made a motion that we put Rich in charge of the design, and gathering what we need for the bidding and construction process. Joe seconded it. There was some discussion, and Rich will bring what he has to the committee for final approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Felix made a motion to adjourn, Joe seconded it and the meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Public comment was taken throughout the meeting.

Submitted this day, Jan. 10, 2018 by Cathy Walker, secretary.

