

Minutes

Burke Conservation Commission
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 6 pm
Burke Town Hall

1. Welcome: Diane Wells (Chair), Hank Butler (Treasurer), Cathie Wheeler, Chris Manges, Brandon Mapes, Elise Lawson (on zoom), Lindley van der Linde (Secretary)
2. Approve July Minutes: All in favor.
3. Recap: July 29 VT Conservation Plan Regional Listening Session- (Attended by Cathie, Hank and Diane) Take home message 30% VT land conserved by 2030 (27% already conserved) and 50% conserved by 2050. Another important idea is to combine with other neighboring towns like Newark. Speaker, Jens Hawkins-Hilke, conservation planner for VT Fish & Wildlife, is excited about what we are working on here in Burke! He may be able to come speak to our groups (BCC, DRP, Planning, etc.) There is a desire to increase the # of Cons. Comm.'s across the state, and raise \$ for grant money, etc. 8/11 AVCC email invited all BCC members to a regional gathering in Hardwick (10/11). Please reply individually to Alex Connizzo if you can attend.
4. Recap: Aug 2 Butterfly Atlas Workshop- This event was a success! Hopefully more such workshops can be planned in the future. Special thanks to Burke Mountain Club for hosting. There were 10 people in attendance. Hopefully Speaker Dana from VT Center for Ecostudies can do a workshop with the Middle School students at BTS this Fall.
5. BCC Email Address: Created by Elise. A good way to reach out from the town forests at the kiosk. We need to determine who will check this.
conservationburkevt@gmail.com
6. Updates: Community Forests-NW Stewardship Center completed their "messy" cutting for bird habitat, thin balsam areas, and apple tree release. Matt Langlais got signs to help educate people on the healthy forest initiative. NWSC Director Maria Young wants to use this as a model for other towns and organizations. 9/18 4:30pm Maria is planning a gathering with NWSC for an educational walk from 5-6. Diane will communicate about who to invite (Selectboard and Jim Sullivan may appreciate this). Brontasaurus project on hold. Abutting Newall property closing hopefully by mid Oct. The new parcel's forest plan could be an addendum to existing Willey Woods Stewardship Plan.
7. Updates: Natural Resource Inventory-Elise has completed the field work! She created many draft maps/photos (wetlands, surface and bedrock geology, farmland and steep slopes, open habitat, etc.) shared with us in a dropbox folder.

She plans to highlight priority areas for conservation. Next steps: Analysis of % of distribution, draft report around November.

8. Treasurer's Report: Updates with recent expenditures. The town will now provide this pdf monthly via email. Changes highlighted in yellow.
9. BCC Membership: Dusty sent an email to Linda to resign. We are 7 members. Forest Comm is 5 (need 3 from the community, we currently have 2).
10. Next BCC Mtg will be with the Forest Subcommittee and invited guest, Cody Jackman, VTF&W Game Warden. Tuesday, Sept 9.
11. Other Business:
 - AVCC Ripple effects watershed forum 4 weeks 1 night/week. Weds.
 - A Forest in every classroom project ideas for Middle School.
 - Coyote education update? Maybe have her talk to the school?
 - Brainstorm other ideas for education.
 - Creating a budget?

12. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted, Lindley van der Linde