

Ripton Conservation Commission Meeting
March 11, 2015 – home of Warren and Barry King – 7:00

Attending: Warren King (chair), Mark Nelson, Becky Purdum, Jay Harrington, Ned Horning, Zapata Courage, Martha McCaughin, Barry King (notes taker)
Missing: Nola Kevra

1. Minutes of last meeting – Martha moved to approve, Mark seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. Town Plan Revision – We continued our work on revising Article II, Natural Resources, of the Ripton Town Plan. We had previously worked individually or in pairs on sections of the plan and emailed our work to the others. ***Note:** We will send the Ripton Planning Commission the sections that we have completed and accepted for their consideration. We need to get the rest of them to the RPC by the first of May.*

A. Land Cover – accepted Barry’s revision of Section A. with a couple of minor changes. She will work with Alison and also Kevin Behm to update some of the information. She may add another paragraph re invasive species.

B. Earth Resources – accepted Nola/Becky/Barry’s work on this section with a couple of minor changes. We also had a short discussion about Sparks Pit.

C. Soils – previously accepted

D. Biologically Significant Areas – accepted Warren’s revisions. We had a discussion about invasive species and if/where more information re the issue should be included in Town Plan. Decided we would fit this in in various places rather than creating a new section. (We aren’t sure we can alter the framework for Town Plans put forth by the State.)

E. Air Resources – accepted Warren’s revisions. Mark will find out the date of the most recent EPA guidelines re woodstoves and if it is more recent than that referenced in this section, we will update the date listed. We also discussed whether Idle-free is a statewide policy and whether Ripton has adopted it.

F. Water Resources – decided to postpone discussion of the three parts of Section F (Surface Waters, Ground Water and Wetlands) due to time.

G. Forest Resources – Mark calls this a work-in-progress as he is expecting to get some more information on the topic. Also, he suggests reading Forest Fragmentation from the VNRC website: <http://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Final-Forest-Fragmentation-Action-Plan.pdf> We will continue to discuss Section G.

H. Scenic Resources – accepted Jay’s revisions with minor changes. Barry will work with Kevin Behm to get a map of our viewsheds.

I. Recreation and Special Use – Zapata will finish her revisions of this section including policies. We will discuss it next time.

3. Next Meeting – Barry will send out a Doodle with dates for the week of April 6.

4. Other Business – Mark alerted us to VT Clean Water Day, Tuesday March 17 in Montpelier and suggested anyone who can do so should attend.

5. Adjournment Martha moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Mark seconded.