

Ripton Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2015 – Barry and Warren's home

Present: Warren King (chair,) Jay Harrington (had to leave about 8:30), Mark Nelson, Zapata Courage, Becky Purdum, Nola Kevra (had to leave about 8:15), Ned Hornig, Martha McCaughin, Barry King (minutes taker.)

1. Minutes of 2 December 2014 – Mark moved they be accepted as written; Jay seconded. Motion passed.
2. 2015 activities
 - a. Update on Water Quality Discussion with Addison County River Watch Collaborative director Matt Witten on January 28 at Ripton Fire House —12 residents attended. Warren will send the summary of last summer's test results on the Midd. River in Ripton to anyone who requests. Briefly mentioned the possibility of trying to seek an "outstanding waters" designation on MR.
 - b. Visit to a vernal pool: set April 12th at 1 pm as time for visit to a vernal pool for Ripton residents. We'll meet at the elementary school parking lot and go to a pool nearby.
 - c. Bird walk: set May 31st at 8 am as the date for our second annual Ripton bird walk. We'll meet at the Bread Loaf parking lot.
 - d. Visit to a wetland: June date and location will be decided at a later meeting.
3. Progress reports: Town Plan Part II

We discussed the following sections and had suggestions about them.

Section H Scenic Resources: Jay. We had a long discussion about this, especially with regards to the balance between too much specificity vs. not enough "teeth" to help inform an Act 250 process, should one arise. The main topic was whether we should list specific view sheds that we feel are important to maintain. Barry is going to check in with Kevin Behm about including a map of them for the town plan. Mark will scan a document from ACRPC about siting solar projects and send it to the CC. We all are supposed to think about important view sheds and let Jay know them.

Section B: Earth Resources: Nola and Becky. Long discussion about various aspects of the write-up. They will work more on it and present again at our next meeting. Probably, they will be able to email it to us in advance.

Section C Soils: Martha. Martha wanted to look at soils as a diverse, living ecosystem and wrote her section from that perspective. We all liked it.

3. Next meeting - We'll send out a doodle to come up with a date in March. Looks like we won't find one that works for everyone.