

Ripton Conservation Commission Meeting
April 6, 2015 – home of Warren and Barry King – 7:00 p.m.

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

1. Minutes of March meeting – Mark moved to approve March's minutes as written; Ned seconded. Unanimously approved.

2. Vernal Pool walk – date change because we still have snow. New date – May 9, 1 p.m.

3. Town Plan Revision – We continued to work on revising Article II, Natural Resources, of the Ripton Town Plan. We worked on and ultimately approved Sections F (1,2,3), G and I. There were revision suggestions for each which Zapata corrected on her computer as we talked. She will send us out the revised copies. We are now done with our revisions to this Article and the new document will go to the Planning Commission for their review/revisions.

We do have an area of concern that we feel needs to be addressed by the Planning Commission unless they ask us to do it instead. That is the question of who the policies are supposed to be directed towards. If the audience were all one group (potential developers or current residents or the Planning Commission), we could put that language into the Town Plan's opening paragraphs. But since various policies seem aimed at various audiences, do we need to specify within each policy or policy section? Or can it be left nebulous in the Town Plan and added to the Unified Development Bylaw? Should we (or someone) look through each policy to identify who it is aimed at and then specify? We think the wording of a policy might change – or the impact of it – depending on who the audience is. We could check other towns' Town Plans and ask Regional Planning to see how this can be done.

We hope a line somewhere in the section on Resiliency will mention that what happens in Ripton affects the towns downstream of us.

The language in the Town Plan should be understandable to the general public rather than only to people with expertise in a particular area.

Can we add Andy MacIntosh's mapped trails to Map 8 (Roads and Trails)? He asked Mark if that could happen. We agreed.

The Conservation Commission would like to be informed when the Planning Commission (and later, the Selectboard) will hold its hearing on the new Town Plan. These meetings will be open to the public so they have to be duly warned anyhow.

4. Next Meeting – Warren/Barry will send out a doodle for a meeting in early June before school gets out. We want to pursue some of the other things that arose during our discussions of the past few months: a web page or FaceBook page; education on Invasive Species' control, etc.

5. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.