

## **MEETING MINUTES: East Montpelier Conservation Fund Advisory Committee**

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Town of East Montpelier Municipal Office Building

Members present: Art Chickering, Bruce Howlett, Charles Johnson, Brian Lusignan.

Members absent: Michael Dworkin.

No members from the public in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Agenda Items:

- 1. Revised draft Conservation Fund Application Packet** (Guidelines, Procedures, Application). Moved by Chickering and seconded by Howlett that the draft be approved and forwarded to the Select Board for adoption. Discussion: add date and page numbers. Motion passed unanimously. *Action: Johnson to send revised draft to Town & Zoning Administrator.*
- 2. Municipal Energy Survey.** Committee will send its completed survey to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, with a copy to Town & Zoning Administrator for distribution to Select Board and other town committees. *Action: Johnson will compile results of tonight's discussion and submit survey online before deadline.*
- 3. Additional Data Needs.** Committee discussed its data and map needs for evaluating applications. Determined it has access to what it needs now, through various organizations (CV Regional Planning Commission, VT Agency of Natural Resources, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Vermont Land Trust, and others). Additional needs in future will be handled on an "as-needed" basis.
- 4. New Members for Committee.** With Dworkin wishing to step down, Committee will have only four members. Desire to have six, reflecting a diversity of skills and backgrounds. *Action: Johnson, on behalf of Committee, will recommend to the Select Board that it put out a call for new members. Current members are encouraged to suggest possible candidates.*
- 5. Conservation Commission for Town.** Discussed the town having a Conservation Commission, per Vermont Statute and as suggested at the town's fall conservation summit. Determined it is the Select Board that should initiate consideration of this, if it wishes to pursue. *Action: Johnson will review statute and provide a list of pros and cons to the Select Board, for its consideration and possible action.*
- 6. Other Business.** Howlett brought up an issue raised when Committee met with the Planning Commission to discuss coordination of efforts. The PC posed the question: How much overlap (conflict) would there be between agricultural lands desirable for conservation and lands falling in possible new town zones for increased development

density? Howlett, to answer this question, showed maps where he overlaid town tax maps with maps showing agricultural lands of prime or statewide importance (potential conservation lands). From these, he determined that there is very little potential conflict between ag land conservation and proposed areas for higher-density development.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by Charles W. Johnson, Chair