

Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

Nov 12, 2014

Committee Members:	Diana Carter, Nick Causton, Colin Davis, Peter Grant, Stan Grzyb, David Hamilton, Wendy Sue Harper (Chair), Arabella Holzpfel, David Ludwig, Andrea Ochs, Ed Payne, Mark Pumiglia, David Raphael, Paul Wagner, Kent Wright
Present:	Diana Carter, Nick Causton, Peter Grant, David Hamilton, Wendy Sue Harper, Arabella Holzpfel, Ed Paine, Paul Wagner, Peter Grant, Kent Wright
Staff:	Kevin Behm
Guest:	

Wendy Sue opened the meeting at 6:20. She introduced herself as the new chair and asked members to introduce themselves and volunteer their interest in the committee.

Wendy Sue briefly addressed the committee background and Kevin provided details on the most recent tasks of the committee, including the re-write of the Natural Resource Section and commenting on the proposed gas pipeline.

Wendy Sue noted that the agenda items addressed several topics that the committee could focus on. Town Forest's were a concern to her town of Monkton since they do not have a municipal forest. Only 7 of the 21 municipalities in the Addison Region have Town Forests. Kevin provided the committee with copies of *The Vermont Town Forest Stewardship Guide* prepared by the Northern Forest Alliance and offered copies the *Management Plan for Salisbury Town Forest* prepared by Marc Lapin, Ecosystem Conservation Science, 2013. These documents provide an overview of the role of a Town Forest as well as detailed management considerations.

Kevin also stated that over the past 2 years ACRPC has received some federal funding to enhance forest land policies in the regional plan and in municipal plans. A Stewardship Plan was developed which is available here <http://54.172.27.91/naturalresources/forest/>

Wendy Sue mentioned that proper siting of larger solar arrays is an issue in several communities and there is an opportunity for the Natural Resource Committee and the Energy Committee to collaborate on guidelines. Ed stated that he would like to see solar arrays on marginal land, not prime farmland.

Wendy Sue asked committee members for any other focus ideas. She offered several others including:

- Water quality issues and the Lake Champlain TMDL
- Watershed planning in collaboration with the Addison County River Watch Collaborative
- Stormwater management

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- Groundwater protection
- Invasive species
- Natural resources and transportation issues
- Natural resources and emergency planning

She envisioned the committee focusing on a limited number of issues and providing education and outreach to communities on the topics. There would also be an opportunity to invite speakers to educate the committee. The committee could also develop project proposals that would be eligible for funding. Kevin noted that in each sub-section of the Natural Resource Section of the regional plan there are Recommended Actions that could also be reviewed.

Peter mentioned the need to revise the plan to include a discussion on caves and public liability for visitors. David elaborated on caves as an environmental amenity, and also included forested areas and clean water. These should all be considered as part of the region's economic engine. Diana felt that renewable energy and solar arrays are also part of our economic engine if we can sort out the siting issues.

Wendy Sue thanked the members for their ideas and reminded the committee that the next meeting is January 14th. She asked if members could meet earlier if we invited a speaker. Kevin offered to send out an email asking about meeting at 5:30 instead of 6:15.

The Committee adjourned at 7:20.