

## Minutes Bradford Conservation Commission 12/17/14

**Members present:** Ed Wendell, Billy Brigtsen, Monique Priestley, Sandy Price, Nancy Jones

**Guest:** Riley Hudson

**Absent:** Tom Gray, Barbara Kulzyck

**Minutes of 12/3** were approved as written

**Finances** Ed presented the following bills to be paid:

Payable to:	Amount:	For:	From:	Status:
Monique Priestley	\$125.00	Plaque for Sean's Trail	FOWM Fund	Approved
Nancy Jones	\$49.00	Postage Stamps	BCC Budget (Postage)	Approved

### Energy

**Pace Info Forum – Ed** Ed has reserved the BA Auditorium for January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for the PACE Forum led by Bob Walker; Ed shared that PACE rates are now 0% - 1.9% for home energy improvements for residents of Towns that are participants in PACE, including Bradford. Improvements that can be financed through these low rates include energy audits, weatherization measures, cold climate heat pumps, high efficiency oil, propane and wood pellet central heating systems, heat pump water heaters, and solar hot water heaters. Renewable electric generation systems can also be financed through PACE at the standard program rate, which is currently at 6.5%. Other PACE advantages include no credit score check, no closing costs and no down payment required.

Ed will send info to Monique for creating an ad for the Forum that will appear in the JO on December 31. She will also post on Facebook. Nancy will create a post for the Bradford Listserve.

- **Reports from VECAN Conf. - Monique, Riley, Nancy, Bud** Riley attended: Workshops about Community Solar Projects, “The Path to Zero Energy Homes” and “An Array of Community Solar Solutions”. Bud attended all Transportation workshops; Monique & Nancy attended: “Making a Compelling Case for Climate and Clean Energy”; “The Legislative Landscape for 2015” (a tax on heating oil is being sought in the VT Legislature); “Innovative Financing Solutions for Municipal & School Energy Improvements”.

### Stewardship

- **Request from 250 Committee** for a WM/DD hike in October; Riley suggested a hike to the cabin and those who want to continue could go down the other side, go into Devil's Den and then end at the Chase Hollow trailhead parking area. Riley volunteered to

lead or co-lead this. Those who didn't want to do the whole trek, could simply return to the trailhead on Wrights MT Road. Sandy suggested that there also be a hike from Chase Hollow Trailhead into Devil's Den. Nancy suggested that we secure a bus from River Bend and ask Cindy to drive. The bus could be parked at the Chase Hollow trailhead to take hikers back to the WM trailhead. The ideal date would be **Sunday, October 4**, with a rain date of **Sunday, October 18**, thus avoiding Columbus Day Weekend. Nancy will get back to the 250 committee with this information.

- **Music for Race to the Top – Nancy** The Wall-Stiles are not available to play. Sandy will check with Jim Musty about his band. Other suggestions included Duane Benjamin and Clayton & Mike Burnham.
- **Update on Plaque – Monique** it has been ordered and will arrive in about 10 days.
- **New Map/Brochure – All** the ads were divided up as follows: Nancy – Hungry Bear, North of the Falls; Copeland Furniture. Monique – will ask at the next Merchants Assoc. Meeting and will target Farmway; WRSB; Colatina Exit; Local Buzz and Bliss Village Store. Sandy – JM Landscaping. Billy – Perry's.

The fee for the ads will be increased to \$75 because the advertisers get exposure for over 1 year and because funds in the FOWM Fund are depleting.

Monique will check with Whitmans for a cost of 1,000 copies. (We're assuming the cost has increased.) We intend to have this completed before our **January 21** meeting.

## Education

- **1st Monday Movies** Film producer Anne Macksoud will present "The Wisdom to Survive" on January 5<sup>th</sup> at Colatina Exit; she would like to be reimbursed for gas mileage. Monique will get the poster and ad to Nancy before the end of the week. Nancy will print and put up posters before Sunday.
- **Bat House update – Riley** is setting aside scraps of lumber at his work for this. Sandy suggested that we make this a project for Earth Day – April 22. Ed reported that this past summer bats moved into his bat house that Gary Tillotson made. We should ask Gary for his help with this project.

## Conservation Fund

- **Petitions update – All** Deadline for submitting petitions is 4:30 pm on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Reports for Annual Town Report - Barbara, Ed, Nancy** are due December 31; Nancy has submitted BCC Report; Barbara will be emailing a draft to all members for review. Ed is working on the Energy Committee report and will submit by the deadline.

## Other

- The Special Places Awards will be announced in January and a ceremony will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Arrowwood reports that all field work is done; some very nice deer wintering areas were identified; they found a VERY nice dry oak forest (uncommon community) on the WM parcel; very nice hemlock and hemlock-hardwood forests on WM and elsewhere. Michael will be meeting with ANR to discuss some of the natural communities that may be State-Significant.  
Data compilation process will begin in January, followed by the report and maps, likely in February.  
(One land-owner kicked Jeff off her property, and Michael called to try to smooth things over, but didn't feel successful. This same landowner had previously given permission in writing for Jeff to visit the property.)
- Conservation Fund Committee will meet tomorrow to decide on whether to hold a Mardi Gras Dinner in February as a fund-raiser

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jones, Acting Secretary