



**Georgia Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**March 17, 2025 - DRAFT**

**Call to Order:** 6:36 pm

**Attendance:**

Present: Alysia Catalfamo, Jen Kale, Suz Brown, Tom Hargy, Fred Grimm, Annette Villani, Peter Mazurak, Guest Jim Earley

Absent: Ken Minck, Connor O'Driscoll

**Minutes:**

February: Suz moved to accept the minutes pending changes regarding the length of Connor's term, Tom seconded. Motion carried.

**Financials as of 3/12/25:**

CRF (account 9-1-00-00-01.08): \$160,036 (includes \$19,267 SLFRF funds)

General (account A-1-00-00-01.05): \$50,409

Line items (account 1-7-05-80-52.00): \$4,760

Please let Tom know if you make a purchase so he can update our records.

**Correspondence:** None

**SB minutes:** The Select Board appointed Connor for a 1 year term.

**On-going business:**

1. VELCO work on power lines at SLW: Ken, Tom, and Alysia met with VELCO to discuss restoration work. Water bars will be added to the Class 4 road. West loop will stay gravel (no mulching/seeding), same with 10' area in ROW to trails. Everything else will be mulched and seeded with a conservation mix. Will pull failed culvert on east side and reinstall signs.
2. Bidwell property purchase: No appeal was filed – will proceed with title search.
3. JoAnn Harvey's after school program: Plan to ask for description of program, then hold new vote on whether to fund with 2025 monies.
4. GMCC Scholarships: Advertising on FPF, FB, signs posted at school and library, GEMS PTCO sent email to their mailing list. Three applicants so far, will post once more on Front Porch Forum.
5. Possible Ethan Tapper Speaking Event: Decided against this for now.
6. VELCO ROW: Select Board has received the deed for powerline access. Alysia suggested building a wider bridge adjacent to the trail for UTVs to use in the future. Will shelve this project for now until it becomes a necessity.

7. SLW Forest Management: Charlie has provided new forest management plan and story map based on plan. Will schedule Charlie to share with the Select Board/Public. He also provided potential dates for a walk in the woods – 4/19 works well, will confirm.
8. Falls Road Signs: Select Board approved new messaging, signs have been ordered.
9. Horseshoe Barn Road: Possibly improve as a walking path for hiking. Need to look into property transfers of abutting properties for descriptions of the road.
10. Wetland restoration at town garage: Alysia ordered plants – will need to pick up mid-April. Will plant either 4/19 or 4/20. Decided against using plastic sleeves for protection – will use either hardware cloth or nothing.
11. Bank stabilization at RGNA: Alysia ordered plants – need to pick up mid-April, will plant 4/19 or 4/20.

#### **New Business:**

1. 2025 Reorganization – Suz moves to keep the board the same for 2025 with the exception of making Peter Vice Chair. Tom seconded, motion carried.
2. No parking sign for Silver Lake Road – needs to be installed at the end of the Class 4.
3. Bird Walks – Tom will plan/schedule this event.
4. Discuss possible line item purchases – interpretive signs for trails, more gravel for SLW parking area, possibly a sign requesting that people pack out their dog poop.
5. Conflict of interest & ethics policy – training – everyone needs to take this training and send their certificate of completion to Stacy.

#### **Items not on agenda:**

1. Falls trail is getting very rutted from maple sugaring. Annette will reach out to see if the sugarers are willing grade it after the season is over.
2. AVCC tiny grants: Open for applications. Due 4/18, max grant is \$700. Possibly apply for an interpretive sign for the RGNA beaver pond?

#### **Pending items:**

1. Boardwalk at RGNA: One roll of hardware cloth left to install. The sections of boardwalk that will be replaced have been flagged. Need to get 12' 8x8s.
2. SLW/RGNA kiosks: New posts received for kiosk at RGNA, sign at SLW shows a tiny bit of rot, no concerns – decided not to replace.
3. Phragmites at SLW: Will want to cut stand near power lines again in summer 2025
4. Trail maintenance: Planning another volunteer day to install more sections of boardwalk at SLW
5. Possibly plan a public hike to see the 1850 railroad tunnel.
6. Buckthorn pulling – set a date for 2025
7. SLW beaver pond: Accepted proposal from Rabbit Tracks to build trail to beaver pond, he understands that the scope of work may change after wetlands officials view the area. VLT is looking into permitting.
8. Painting boundaries at SLW: Plan for this when weather is warmer.

9. Trail through wetland mitigation project at town garage: DRB voted not to rebuild wetland. Trying to get info re: state wetlands permit for original construction of the garage – our understanding was that a mitigation project was required.
10. Stream restoration work at SLW: Had meeting onsite with VLT to discuss and review options for stream stability. They are working on what permits will be required and we will hear from them once that is figured out.
11. Mass failures for Rugg Brook and Mill River: State directed Ken to coordinate with the town. Will re-evaluate in Summer 2025 to see if there has been any progression of the failures.

## **Adjournment: 8:15**

### **ACRONYMS**

ACRPC: Addison County regional planning commission (block grant 104A gully)  
AOP: Aquatic Organism Passage  
ARCO: Archaeological study  
AVCC: Association of Vermont Conservation Comm.(Tiny grants)  
CCRPC: Chittenden County regional planning commission Basin 5 (Falls trail gully)  
CREP: Conservation reserve enhancement program  
CRF: Reserve Fund  
GMCC: Green Mountain Conservation Camps  
NRCD: Natural resources conservation district (tree sales/etc.)  
NRCS: Natural resources conservation services (mostly agriculture)  
NRPC: Northwest regional planning commission Basin 7-Lamoille drainage  
RFP: Request for proposals  
RGNA: Russell Greene Natural Area  
RTP: Recreational trails program  
SLFRF: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds  
SLW: Silver Lake Woods  
TBD: To be determined  
VACD: Vermont association of Conservation Districts (umbrella for all the NRCD's)  
VLT: Vermont Land Trust  
VYCC: Vermont Youth Conservation Comm.(Trail building)  
WCA: Watershed Consulting Associates



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