

Corinth Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2011

Present: Frank Roderick, Ginny Barlow, Shari Tkac, Linda Tobin, Anne Margolis, Martha Rosten

Guests: Kevin Eaton, Dan Wing, Tim O'Dell, Laurie Sheridan

Missing: Earl Adams, Steve Long, Penny Andrew

Ginny Barlow chaired the meeting, which came to order at 7:00.

- 1) Minutes from the June 6, 2011 meeting were approved.
- 2) Ginny delivered a payment of \$88 for bottle returns from East Corinth General Store and gave it to Martha to deposit with Susan Fortunati.
- 3) Ginny reported that Randy McFarline has made a sign holder for the transfer station. Ginny is working on a sign.

Schedule for picking up bottles at the transfer station

July 16	Shari
July 23	Frank
July 30	Anne
August 6	Ginny
August 13	Linda

- 4) Ginny reported that as of September, we will need a new Cookeville Mall scheduler. We won't go back to the winter schedule until it gets cold. There were no takers at this meeting; Ginny said she will do it in the meantime, and Linda offered to help. Ginny will bring it up again when there are more Commissioners present.
- 5) Ginny reported that the Mary Holland event is changed from 10/21 to 10/28.
- 6) Nancy Ertle will need things for the August/September/October newsletter by 7/25.
- 7) We're moving our September meeting to 9/6 on account of the Labor Day holiday.
- 8) We discussed ideas that the town could submit to the Department of Public Service to include in the Energy Plan. These include:
 - a. Assistance for planning projects such as the one for which the Corinth Energy Committee applied but was rejected (to help set up a group net metering cooperative).

- b. Legislation to help Vermonters communicate on alternative transportation strategies, such as for requiring insurance to cover people renting each other's cars; as well as other methods of helping with transportation options, such as a website or listserv to help people rent their cars or find rentals. Another idea would be some sort of "registry" of legitimate hitchhikers, or some other way to recognize people who are trustworthy as casual riders or regular commuters.
- c. Is there a national clearinghouse for rural energy initiatives? If so, it would be great for the state to circulate this to towns for ideas; and if not, maybe Vermont could help team up with other states to help create this sort of information-sharing platform.
- d. The state could potentially help us with a wider tire recycling initiative. For us right now, we will aim for a November event; Dan will put it in the town newsletter and put up a warning on the bulletin board at the transfer station.
- e. To cut down on heating fuel usage, the state could offer a simple tax credit for energy efficiency measures, modeled after the federal tax credit. Having an audit, and doing things recommended in the audit, would be a prerequisite for receiving the credit.
- f. There is a need for heating fuel dealer and customer education; one idea would be for dealers to offer a chauffage, or ESCO type of service, where dealers contract with customers to provide heat rather than fuel and dealers are incentivized to install efficiency measures that are repaid through the fuel savings.
- g. Perhaps the state could put out an RFP for creative fuel dealer/auditor ideas, working through the VT Fuel Dealers Association to create demand-side management programs that support decreased energy usage and long-term business viability.
- h. Meeting participants would generally support the idea of an equitable and binding Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Anne Margolis.