

## **West Fairlee Conservation Commission**

### **Approved Minutes –Special Meeting of October 14, 2014**

**Attending:** Geoff Gardner, Coeey Kearns, Ann Stephens, Peggy Willey, Rebecca Wurdak.

The meeting began at 6:40 PM.

**1. ATV traffic in Brushwood South:** Ann reported that early in the month when she, Dave Paganelli, Glenn McKinley and Andy Boyce toured the new logging road and landing to discuss trails and access for VAST members, they found very fresh evidence that ATVs had already been using the new road and had moved aside the boulders intended to block them and had damaged a number of the water bars on the road. When she and Geoff were there to meet with the Valley News reporter on October 10, they found worse damage. The evidence seems to show that the ATVs are not coming in past the gate on Bloodbrook Road but are coming in from Fairlee, using the VAST trail. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Commission will install two signs at the gate on Bloodbrook Road. One will specify that ATVs are not permitted in Brushwood South and will direct them to the trails designated and maintained by the Bradford ATV Club in Brushwood North. The other sign will say no mechanized vehicles are permitted without permission of the Town of West Fairlee. Following Paul Gillies's suggestion back in July, a duplicate of this sign will also be placed where the purported right of way enters the Vaida property. It was also moved, seconded and passed unanimously that the Commission will seek to have a second gate placed in the area of the boulders blocking ATV access and a third gate much further back into Fairlee on the VAST trail. Ann will discuss this with Glenn McKinley. The Commission will seek to have the signs made locally.

**2. Parking at the Brushwood South Gate on Bloodbrook Road:** Ann and Geoff reported that when they met the Valley News reporter at the gate on October 10 two school buses from Westshire school were parked at the gate. The whole school was hiking up to Bald Top that day. Since the buses took up all the designated parking, a number of other cars were parked well into the Kuchels's field on the other side of the road. While Geoff and Ann were talking to the reporter, Roland Kuchel came by and asked that we not allow parking anywhere but along the side of the road so that there would be no damage to the hay in that field. We discussed the question of Brushwood parking in this area, especially at times of heavy use. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that whenever the Commission, the Westshire School, the Rivendell Trail Association or any other group expects there will be heavy use of Brushwood South beyond the gate creating a need for greater than usual parking, the gate will be opened so cars can park just beyond it. We will notify Andy Boyce and the school of this.

**3. Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC):** It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that we will continue our membership in AVCC. Geoff will take care of the membership and payment for it.

**4. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.