

Approved Minutes of the
Hartford Conservation Commission
July 7, 2025

Members Present: Sky Claud, Holly Henderson, Ted Levin and chair Katie Mann.

Staff Present: Town Planner Matt Osborn.

Others Present: Selectboard Liaison Erik Krauss.

A hybrid Hartford Conservation Commission (HCC) Meeting in compliance of the Open Meeting Law was held on Monday, July 7th in Room 2 of the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street in White River Junction, Vermont. Chair Katie Mann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Katie proceeded to read the Hybrid Meeting Script followed by a roll call.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Katie asked if there were any changes to the draft minutes of 6/2/25. Being none, Katie stated that the minutes of 6/2/25 are accepted as written by unanimous consent.
2. **Public Comments:** Katie asked if there were any public comments. There were none.
3. **HCC Bylaw Amendments:** Matt noted a minor revision related to Selectboard approval of the bylaws and the Town Charter. There are no other changes. Katie asked if there were any comments regarding the proposed change. Being none, Ted Levin made a motion to approve the draft bylaw changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Holly Henderson and unanimously approved. Matt noted that the next step is to go before the Selectboard for approval. Matt will inquire about getting on a Selectboard meeting agenda.
4. **Maanawaka Conservation Area Management Plan:** Katie noted that the Maanawaka Conservation Area Management Plan is outdated. Katie suggested establishing a subcommittee to work on the update. The HCC agreed. Katie and Holly volunteered. Katie suggested working on the update this fall. Holly agreed.
5. **Maanawaka Conservation Area Power Line Herbicide Treatment:** Holly reported that she contacted the Upper Valley Land Trust about herbicide use along powerline corridors. The UVLT responded that this is common practice and the UVLT has no issue or policy about it. Matt noted that he requested that VELCO contact the Town when they plan to use herbicide and the specific herbicide so we can inform the public about it.
6. **Maanawaka Conservation Area Encampment:** Matt reported that he posted a “No Camping” sign at the kiosk. He noted that Town Health Officer Brett Mayfield reported that the homeless people vacated the property. Matt has not heard that anyone is camping on the property. He will conduct a site visit to confirm.
7. **Town Forest Trails Day Event:** Katie reported that the weather did not cooperate during this year’s Trails Day event on June 7th. She reported that eight folks turned up. The focus was replacing the 20-year old cedar shake roof on the kiosk with a metal standing seam roof. The project was led by former Conservation Commission chair Tom Kahl. Former HCC member Lee Michaelides, Chris Beetham and resident Brian Jordan joined in. The replacement roof should last a long time. Matt noted that there are a few small dead pine trees near the kiosk that should be removed to avoid damage to the kiosk. It was agreed to see if the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center might be able to do the work. Katie volunteered to contact teacher Dan Gibson. Katie reported that Chris removed a damaged bridge on Jill’s Trail. She noted that the trail is very wet and not sustainable. She offered to talk to

mountain bikers about closing the trail. Matt reported that he replaced missing trail maps in several Town Forest locations.

8. **Town Forest Walk with the County Forester:** Holly reported that she will follow-up with County Forester Dan Healy regarding the walk with HCC members.
9. **Town Forest Planning:** Katie reported that there was discussion about the need to update the Wildlife Habitat Assessment with new data since it was completed in 2010. The HCC agreed. She suggested looking at possible consultants.
10. **HCC Awards Program:** Sky reported that so far, only one nomination was submitted. She suggested increasing promotion. The HCC agreed. Katie volunteered to post on the List Serv every three days. Matt will post on the website. Erik suggested contacting organizations. The HCC agreed. It was also agreed to promote the award selection.
11. **Ottauquechee Trail:** Holly reported that she reached out to Sheila Armen and is waiting to hear back.
12. **Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:** Katie reported that there was a good turnout at the event. Katie and Matt split up duties staffing the HCC booth and overseeing the composting operation.
13. **Family Forest Frolic:** Sky offered to hold a weeknight Family Forest Frolic on fireflies in August. The HCC agreed.
14. **Upcoming HCC Events:**
 - a. Family Forest Frolic in August (Date to be determined):
15. **Announcements/Reports:**
 - a. HCC Opening: Katie noted that Chris is moving out of Hartford so an HCC opening exists. Forester and Town Forest neighbor James Donahey has applied to serve. His interview with the Selectboard is scheduled for tomorrow evening. Ted noted that James would be a great addition. He provides a perspective that none of the HCC members have.
 - b. HCC Advisors: Holly suggested that HCC consider having advisors to the HCC.
16. **Community Events:**
 - a. Cedar Circle Workshops: <https://cedarcirclefarm.org/education/workshops>
17. **Next HCC Meeting:** Katie noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 9/8 at 7:00 p.m.
18. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
19. **Action Items:**
 - a. Matt will inquire about getting the HCC Bylaws on a Selectboard meeting agenda.
 - b. Katie and Holly volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to update the Maanawaka Conservation Area Management Plan.
 - c. Matt will conduct a site visit to confirm that there are no encampments in the Maanawaka Conservation Area.

- d. It was agreed to see if the Hartford Area Career & Technology Center might be able to do the work. Katie volunteered to contact teacher Dan Gibson.
- e. Katie offered to talk to mountain bikers about closing Jill's Trail.
- f. Holly will follow-up about a Town Forest walk with the County Forester Dan Healy.
- g. The HCC agreed to look into hiring a consultant to update the Wildlife Habitat Assessment. The HCC agreed to look at possible consultants.
- h. Katie volunteered to post the HCC Awards Program on the List Serv every three days.
- i. Matt will post on the website about the Awards Program.
- j. The HCC also agreed to contact organizations about the Awards Program.
- k. It was also agreed to promote the award selection.
- l. Sky offered to hold a weeknight Family Forest Frolic on fireflies in August.

20. HCC Member Terms: Chris Beetham (8/7/27), Sky Claud, (7/31/27), Mike Harris, vice-chair (8/7/27), Holly Henderson, (10/14/28), Mary Hutchins, (10/30/27), Ted Levin, (11/15/25) and Katie Mann, chair (3/20/27).