



# MINUTES

**Thursday – July 18, 2024**

**5:30pm**

**Prospect Ski Area – Woodford, VT**

**Present:** Walter Klinger, David McAneny, Dixie Zens, Linda Schmidt, John Lavecchia Jr., Michael Fernandez, Cat Bryars, Sheila Kearns, Donald Campbell, Dani Delaini, Brian Lent, Laura Sibilia, David Newell, Marie Caduto, Mark Rondeau

**BCRC Staff:** Bill Colvin, Janet Hurley, Callie Fishburn, Jonathan Cooper, Scott Grimm-Lyon, Jim Henderson, Samantha Page

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

## **1. Welcome and Update on Happenings at Prospect Ski**

David Newell of Prospect Ski Area Board of Directors welcomed the group and provided a brief history of Prospect and discussed recent improvements since the local investors group acquired the property in 2018.

## **2. Minutes of the March 21, 2024 and May 16, 2024 BCRC Meetings**

Dixie Zens made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2024, seconded by Donald Campbell. Approved. Dixie Zens moved approval of the May 16, 2024 minutes, seconded by David McAneny. Approved.

## **3. Deerfield River Tactical Basin Plan**

Marie Caduto, Watershed Coordinator for the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VT DEC) provided an update on the Deerfield River and Southern Connecticut River Tactical Basin Plan. This plan is updated every five years with the current renewal due in 2024. The plan evaluates water quality and habitat conditions and uses provided and sets management goals for the waters. Caduto discussed the process and timeline for developing the five-year update and asked the group to suggest any project ideas to Jim Henderson at the BCRC so he could communicate them to her.

#### **4. Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update**

Representative Laura Sibia, Director of Regional Economic Development Strategies at Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) and Jonathan Cooper, Community & Economic Development Program Manager at the BCRC gave an overview of the process now underway to update the Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (SoVT CEDS). The original SoVT CEDS was developed by partners in Bennington and Windham Counties in 2019 and is due for its five-year update in 2024. The history leading to the development of the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone and the original SoVT CEDS was provided. Cooper discussed the timeline for the new plan and highlighted opportunities for public input coming in September 2024.

#### **5. Bennington Regional Plan Update Status and Process**

BCRC Assistant Director and Planning Program Manager Janet Hurley provided a status report on the ongoing update to the *Bennington Regional Plan*. She reminded commissioners this update will include new requirements related to the HOME Act but not the newest requirements of H.687/Act 181 which go into effect in 2026. BCRC will begin a more comprehensive update and move to a web-based plan soon after this update is completed. The timeline for the current update is for a draft to be issued in September with the initial public hearing in October and a final public hearing and approval vote in November.

#### **6. Other Business**

Walt Klinger told the group about upcoming events celebrating Vermont's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary including an 18<sup>th</sup> Century-themed dinner at The Equinox in Manchester and reenactments. He encouraged the group to make suggestions for other activities.

Michael Fernandez reminded the group of \$750,000 in funding available for local conservation projects and asked them to spread the word to solicit project ideas. He announced the availability of three Working Lands Climate Corp positions in the region with a deadline to apply of August 5<sup>th</sup>.

There being no other business, Donald Campbell moved to adjourn, seconded by Dixie Zens. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin  
Director

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