

*draft*

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
11 JUN 16 AM 10:46

**Town of Vernon  
Open Space Task Force  
and  
Town of Vernon Conservation Commission**

**RECEIVED BY EMAIL**



**Minutes of Special Meeting June 6, 2011  
Combined Meeting – Open Space Task Force (OSTF) and Conservation Commission (CC)**

*Meeting Location: Water Pollution Control Facility Conference Room, Windsorville Rd*

**Present:** Tom Ouellette, Russ Kunz, Ryan Goad, Ann Letendre

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Tom Ouellette and Ann Letendre co-chaired the meeting.

Agenda item: Review and discussion – draft Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD).

Ryan Goad reviewed the CC comments prepared and submitted to the POCD committee in May, 2010. Most had been incorporated in the draft. Ann Letendre reviewed comments submitted from the OSTF. All but three had been incorporated.

Members compared content of Booklet #4 Conservation to the current draft POCD. Several points were noted:

1. Several parcels in the Open Space Plan were not included on the Open Space Plan map in the draft POCD. Ann will look into it in more detail.
2. Some discussion of aquifers that was in Booklet #4 was eliminated; some was repeated in the sidebar, but members felt it downplayed their importance. One of the aquifer maps was also eliminated. The CC will recommend that the discussion be reinstated
3. Disparity between natural resource slopes 20% - 25% needs to be resolved.
4. NDDDB map needs updating, since DEP updates it every six months.
5. Talcottville Gorge should be shown as existing open space on the map; Tancanhoosen LLC not yet signed, so should be shown as “desired open space”.
6. River riparian areas need to be added as a resource.
7. Vernal pools need to be added to resource list.

Other points in the document discussed:

- The list of natural resources in the 2001 POCD should be listed, at least in an appendix. This was a recommendation of May, 2010 that was not incorporated. The CC will request that it be included again.

- Discussion on the sewer service plan (Utilities section), and concern about water diversion from the Tankerhoosen, especially since the water service plan does not bring in water to replace the water that would be diverted from the same area.

- Members questioned why “fiscal restraint” was shown as an overarching theme. That notion did not come up at any of the public meetings or in the survey, so the source was questioned. Members felt it did not make sense in a land use planning document.

- Ann questioned the “advisory document” note in the beginning of the draft, and felt that it downplayed the importance of the POCD. She had reviewed 8-23, and it is not mentioned in the statutory text, as the note says. Ryan suggested that it might be noted in the cases cited, and will check into it.

Ryan will draft the summary of points raised about CC-relevant points, and Ann will draft summary about open space-related points. They will be sent to CC and OSTF to review and comment before final copy to be submitted to PZC June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Letendre, OSTF chairman  
Tom Ouellette, CC vice-chairman