

Marlboro Conservation Commission Minutes

10-Apr-17

Attendance Adam Gebb, Lucia Kloster, Ashley Bies

Report and Discussion on the Meeting of Regional Conservation Commissions (Ashley)

- Several other CCs in this region are organizing municipal biodiversity inventories, and most are relying on an annual municipal conservation budget to organize and conduct these surveys.
- The CC will begin planning an inventory process for habitat features (such as vernal pools and mast stands) proposed for protection in the currently proposed changes to Town Zoning.
- The CC will consider requesting an annual budget if such an inventory will require funding.
- Ashley and Patti Smith (as a BEEC representative) advocated for collaborative conservation initiatives, particularly for regional wildlife connectivity through road crossing corridors.

CC Input to Hogback Preservation Committee

- Adam will represent CC input on the importance unlogged and selectively logged late successional forest habitat at the upcoming HPC meeting on May 10th, in coordination with Mike Purcell.

CC Representation at the next Planning Commission on Proposed Zoning

- The next Planning Commission hearing will be the 4th Tuesday in April (the 25th).
- Adam and Ashley will attend to address any questions on proposed wildlife habitat and road crossing zoning pertaining to the CC's role in proposing and supporting these potential overlays.

Beginning CC Review of Potential Additions to the Existing Wildlife Zoning Proposals

- At our next meeting, we will begin mapping additional road areas we recommend as crossings.
- We will seek to ensure representation of connectivity between all adjacent forest patches through redundancy of crossings between them for longterm wildlife adjustment to climate change.
- Ashley will work with Jeff Nugent (WRC) to explore mapping less developable road frontage, to help us consider how to minimize the impact of additional potential road crossings.

Potential Program to Offer Landowners Option to Conserve Road Crossing Habitat

- The current proposed crossings designation doesn't maintain forest habitat (and only partly keeps crossings free of development) or give landowners a choice about participation or a tax adjustment.
- We will explore ways for the Town or regional conservation organizations to offer an easement option to landowners to protect their crossing habitat, and how Town taxes could be adjusted.

Invasive Species Control

- We recommend that small patches of Japanese knotweed along Town roadways, particularly near streams and wetlands, be eradicated rapidly, and will begin surveys to locate candidate sites.

CC Meeting Facilitation Process

- Tabled to next meeting (pending presence of a larger proportion of the CC).

Next CC Meeting

- Tentatively scheduled for Monday May 1st, 7p (pending availability of other CC members; at South Pond if weather is suitable), to focus on mapping out potential additional wildlife road crossings.