

TOWN OF MARLBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 12th, 2018
6:30 PM
Town Office, South Road

Notes

Present: Ashley Bies, Mike Purcell, Jaime Tanner, Ryan Stampfli , Kevin Kennedy

- Review and approve minutes from last meeting (11~Dec~17).

Approved.

- Consider new business to add to the agenda.

Jaime brought up the fact that Marlboro College will be building a new cross country ski trail that runs close to a wildlife crossing the CC has mapped out. She said that the college had consulted with her about an earlier possible location and followed her advice on it, but did not contact her on this, and it is now official. The trail will be built this summer. It's unclear the impact grassed and mowed cross-country trails have on wildlife crossings compared to roads.

Ashley recommended that the CC reach out to the college to review more fragile areas of the campus and offer guidelines for least-impact construction and maintenance. Jaime will reach out to Spencer and Adam (the key people behind the trail) and Kevin Quigley (college president) to see if we could meet and look at the campus crossings.

Ashley said that he's heard that beaver are being killed on the college campus in an area near the new graduate center building. Jaime will approach key college personnel about it.

- Consider offering a presentation on wildlife connectivity context of Town and/or a CC information table at Town Meeting.
—Consensus is to not have a CC presence at Town Meeting.
- GRWA events in Marlboro:
Easement conservation workshop for landowners (at Marlboro College library from 9:00~12:30 on Saturday March 19th
Ashley and Patti Smith will lead a Wetland Wildlife Tracking snowshoe hike (from Marlboro Post Office at 1:00 on Sunday February 19th
- Consider helping prioritize areas for GRWA conservation prioritization (including potential outreach to invite owners to Easement workshop).
- Consider whether to further explore a vision for collaborating with other Town CCs (and other conservation organizations) on wildlife movement monitoring throughout our area or county, in the context of the crucial Ecoregion wildlife habitat linkage priority for our area.
—Ashley will reach out to the Newfane, Dover, Wardsboro and Stratton Conservation

and~or Planning Commissions and ask them if we could meet with them to look at opportunities for collaborating on wildlife monitoring and exploring approaches for preserving wildlife connectivity habitat.

Other key towns to reach out to: Guilford, Halifax.

- Coordinate snow track monitoring of Winter wildlife movement.
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends are the best days for tracking. Need to wait for snow. Tracking Club meets at the OP at Marlboro on Sunday afternoons.
- Organize Minutes taking for future meetings.
Next meeting is March 12. Pieter will take minutes.