

TOWN OF MARLBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, October 22nd, 2018
7:00 PM
Town Office, South Road

Minutes

Called to order at 7:05. Members present – Ashley Bies, Chair, Jamie Tanner, Kevin Kennedy, Pieter van Loon. Public present – Nathan Rupard.

- Review and approve minutes from last meetings (09~Jul~18, 10~Sept~18).
 - The September minutes (motion Jamie, second Ashley) were approved.
 - The July minutes were passed with revisions (motion Jamie, second Kevin).

- Open discussion of potential new business.
 - Nathan Rupard came to the CC to get feedback about his plans to build a house on his land, which is in a wildlife habitat overlay district, and to give feedback on the zoning provisions. He was taken aback at first, as he was unaware of the requirements. He feels it would be helpful to alert anyone who comes in for a zoning permit of the possibility of needing to go through the review process, especially because it means coordinating the field review and a DRB hearing. Having the review done early in the parcel development process allows for a smoother process and better outcomes. If done just prior to construction, it turns into a box checking exercise, rather than the intended informational exchange.

- Report from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions' Annual Summit.
 - Ashley reported on the day. The theme of the keynote speech was “They are coming,” referring to migration as a result of climate change and sea level rise and the likely displacement of 4 million people who will be looking for places like VT. Ashley attended a training on leadership and collaboration.

- Report from the two Fall collaborative SE VT linkage conservation meetings we've been involved in.
 - Jamie – There have been 2 meetings. The first was run by Jens Hilke and Monica Przyperhart and described the importance of the habitat linkages in our area and the ways in which grassroots efforts could be formed to protect them.
 - Meeting 2 came about as a result of a grant opportunity from High Meadows Fund related to forest health. Windahm Regional Commission (WRC) is interested in applying for the grant and involving Marlboro and other towns in the effort to do more extensive work on habitat linkage conservation. VT Coverts would be a sub-contractor helping with collaborative, landowner outreach and education. Emily Davis from WRC is working up a draft of the grant application.
 - See Monica's notes, attached.

- Update on recent Environmental Consultant requests and Reports for building projects in the Wildlife Habitat Overlay Zone.

- A site visit to the Eichelberger/Difeo property at 2601 Ames Hill Road was set for Sunday, Nov.4. Nathan Rupard's property off of Fish Road is tentatively scheduled for Nov.11.
- Discuss possible designs for remapping wildlife road crossings and identifying corridors between them.
 - Tabled until the next meeting (Nov. 12).
- Update on administration of CC budget, including with respect to event and travel reimbursement and food reimbursements.
 - Thus far we are well within our budget and are unlikely to use the whole amount.
- Check in on Town~wide invasive species monitoring Summer project undertaken by Marlboro College student Ryan Stampfli.
 - Ryan is making progress and Jamie is hopeful that there may be a draft for us to review at the next meeting.
- Discuss potential additional CC members.
 - Jamie will write a Mixer article inviting people to fill open seats on the board. She will distribute a draft next week.
 - Anna Barrio is interested. Ashley will check with Cherrie Corey to see if she feels she has the time to become involved.
- Organize Minutes taking for future meetings.
 - Kevin is on deck for the Nov. meeting.

Adjourned – 8:57

Submitted by Pieter van Loon