

TOWN OF MARLBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, December 10th, 2018
7:00 PM
Town Office, South Road

MINUTES

Present: Ashley Bies, Jaime Tanner, Pieter van Loon, Kevin Kennedy.

- Reviewed and approved minutes from last meetings (29~Oct~ and 12~Nov~18).
- Report from Conservation Commissions and Natural Resource Organizations bi~annual meeting. CC reps from another town [Londonderry?] want to collaborate on emerald ash borer and wildlife linkages with other towns. Ashley talked about the Marlboro CC's efforts to organize a regional wildlife linkage work. There is a desire by other towns to organize baseline studies of ash, to follow impact of the ash borer.
- Discussed the organization of the Marlboro CC and our capacity for projects we might undertake, including potential wildlife underpass creation and planning grants for bridges beneath Rt 9.

Brainstormed ideas:

Continue with wildlife crossing data collection

Continue work developing a regional approach to wildlife linkages.

Work around invasive species.

Work with VT Trans on improving the designs of road overpasses/wildlife underpasses, and wildlife passable substrate in key area.

Work with VT trans to do a speed study and explore its impact on wildlife road kills, exploring various ways to raise wildlife crossing awareness both locally and among people traveling through, using road signs or even developing a wildlife information kiosk at Hogback.

Do more community outreach, with developing fliers or brochures about our work, create a Facebook page dedicated to wildlife sightings, doing more with the CC presence on the town of Marlboro site, have an interactive & educational presence at the Marlboro Fair
Have the CC play a greater role in helping people identify and address invasive species and/or wildlife crossings.

Have the CC serve as a facilitator for landowners looking to get government support to eradicate invasives.

The group supported the idea of picking a couple high priority projects to focus on, possibly have a one or two other long-term ones to begin to lay the groundwork on.

Consider broad categories to see if these projects fit, eg: public outreach, research, collaboration.

Whatever we choose as a priority, we should look into seeing if other CCs in the area are also pursuing the same priorities and exploring collaborating with them.

Ashley suggested that the Marlboro CC offer to host the spring regional CC meeting, which would probably be in April.

- Discuss education and outreach possibilities, including for wildlife movement habitat in through Town.
 All agreed that public outreach should be a high priority for the Marlboro CC, to create a positive understanding about the work that we do. Ideas for this include:
 Pieter's idea of having a blank map at the Marlboro Fair where people could mark where they've seen wildlife crossings.
 Have public walks to identify invasives.
 Invite people to go on tracking trips in the area, follow up with a road crossing survey; tie in with the Hogback Mountain Conservation, BEEC wildlife tracking effort.
 Kevin will come up with a communications plan for getting the word out about public outreach activities and other CC work.
- Update from wildlife road crossing surveys so far this Winter, in terms of remapping wildlife road crossings and identifying corridors between them.
 Ashley reported finding bear and fisher crossings at Rt 9 and Hamilton Road, bear crossing at Auger Hole and Alexander Road, bobcat at the top of the rise on Ames Hill road near Bob Engel's driveway, and moose crossing someplace I don't remember what he said. At the height of land on Whitaker Farm Road off of Church Hollow had a fisher crossing.
- Update on administration of CC budget for 2018.
 We have spent \$270.
 We have about \$730 in the budget.
 This does not include unreimbursed mileage for Ashley for wildlife surveying from last winter and this past fall.
 Ashley has drive about 850 miles that he has not been reimbursed for. Full reimbursement would equal over \$400.
 Pieter suggested purchasing tools for removing invasives that could be loaned out, such as a weed wrench, which could be used for pulling out invasive sapplings such as buckthorn. The Marlboro CC approved by acclamation Pieter purchasing a weed wrench from the budget for this purpose.
 Jaime will pursue purchasing a magnetic board to put a map on.
 Look into setting up some kind of a magnetic board with a map of Marlboro that people can place various animals at different spots on where people have seen various wildlife
- Update on Environmental Consultant site visit and Report process for potential building projects in the Wildlife Habitat Overlay Zone.
- Organize Minutes taking for future meetings (and circulation of present draft minutes).
 Jaime will take minutes at the next meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.