

TOWN OF MARLBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 8th, 2019

7:00 PM

Town Office, South Road

Members present - Pieter van Loon, Ashley Bies, Jaime Tanner, Kevin Kennedy, Patti Smith,
Planning Commission rep
Meeting called to order at - 7:12 PM

Approved minutes from last meeting (11~Mar~19).

Open discussion of potential new business.

CC representation at the April 17th Regional Conservation Meeting being hosted by Guilford. Jaime will be our rep at the meeting. Patti will also be in attendance and she and Jaime will display the maps related to the recent High Meadows Fund grant and update folks on our recent activities.

Ashley will be talking in the coming week to Monica and Emily, Windham Regional Commission staff members, about the SE VT Collaborative Wildlife Linkage Conservation process.

Patti says the PC is in the process of updating the town plan to comply with Act 171. There will be a mapping element on which the PC would like CC input. Each town is to be considering large forest blocks, wildlife crossing and linkage resources. The PC/Patti would like the CC to review and comment on the Natural Resources section of the town plan, particularly action steps and policies. VT F&W has a new resource to help LOs map wildlife habitat on their lands and they would like towns to map their crossing and linkage information. Once the town plan is updated, there will need to be an update to the zoning regulation. Ashley has a guidance video for Act 171 that was developed by VNRC. He will share it with CC and PC members.

Potential topics for collaboration with the PC include:

- wildlife road crossing surveys by the CC and Daniel Medeiros, a Marlboro College student, has been researching wildlife crossings as part of his academic work.
- Halifax is looking at possibility of having a member on both the PC and CC. To provide better communication between boards, might a Marlboro PC member be willing to do the same or perhaps have a rotation of members coming to CC meetings? Another possibility might be coming to meetings on a quarterly basis.
- input on configuration Wildlife Habitat Overlay zoning, with particular attention to termini of dead~end roads (ending the buffer at the end of the road), general distance from road frontage, and distance around houses (would it be more effective to have a combination buffer centered on houses to go along with a narrower). Patti thinks there may be other strategies to explore and that the PC can explore those as they go through the Act 171 town plan update and the subsequent zoning reg changes.
- Update on information gathered during wildlife road crossing surveys from the past two winters by Ashley and Daniel Medeiros, a Marlboro College student, has been researching

wildlife crossings as part of his academic work. The PC may be able to use this in remapping wildlife road crossings and identifying corridors between them. Patti wonders if the crossings could be prioritized based on threat, be that from development or high traffic. Ashley suggested that prioritization could be based on importance related to the regional linkages and threat. The maps being developed for Act 171 may be able to use this information. At the next meeting we will begin to fine tune the details of information to be included on the map.

There was no update on the Selectboard consultation related to potential request for speed studies along Rt 9.

Minutes taker for the May meeting will be Mike Purcell.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Pieter van Loon