

TOWN OF MARLBORO

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 28th, 2019, 7:00 PM
Town Office, South Road

Present: Mike Purcell, Pieter Van Loon, Jaime Tanner, Kevin Kennedy, Ashley Bies

- Review and approve minutes from our last official meeting (09~Sep~19) - approved
- Update on recent Wildlands Linkages presentations (Select Board, Wildlife Festival, Town Fair).
 - o Selectboard was supportive of the initiative to pursue speed limit studies and wildlife signage at crossing sites. They recommended talking to folks familiar with approaching the state about road signs like Sue Burt and Pieter. Pieter suggests broadening the zone for which we might ask for reduced speed, which would include more accident data.
 - o The Selectboard was excited to see the new map and appreciative of what the MCCC is doing.
 - o They also recommended that Ashley speak with Emily Long during one of her sessions at the Community Center. She was interested in talking more about conservation issues and about the Windham Connectivity Collaborative project.
 - o Ashley also went to the transportation meeting in Marlboro and talked to the commissioner about the Staying Connected Initiative and he was open to it and suggested that we try to get wildlife signs as soon as possible as the speed studies might take longer. Discussion of what kind of signs we might shoot for.
 - o At the Wildlife Festival there was interest in the maps and handouts.
 - o Likewise, the town fair was a big success. Discussion of how to use citizen sourced data. We could create a new iNaturalist project for Citizen Science data. Then when we have tracking and iNaturalist workshops folks can upload their data to this new project and for any sightings that also have photos and location information these can be transferred to our original project.
 - o The tracking cards and handouts about the iNaturalist project could be put on the counter at the Town Office.

- Update on our SE VT Collaborative Wildlife Linkage Conservation working group process.
 - o Next Monday is the next meeting so we will have more to report at our next meeting
 - Discuss plans for November Windham County Conservation Commissions and Organizations meeting.
 - o Jaime will email community center about availability and email Mary Ellen.

Content – time to greet and eat, reports from each conservation commission, presentation/workshop on Linkage collaborative. Maybe Ashley and Margo can provide the background and update on the project now and then see if each town has ideas on how to get involved. We will also see if Jens and/or Monica will be there.

- Discuss context for and upcoming Wildlife Habitat Overlay Environmental Consultant review projects.

- o There is a new driveway on Rt 9 past Augur Hole on South Side, they already have their permit for the driveway and the driveway has already been made. Yurts and other structures with only a sink for plumbing only require permits if occupied consistently for a protracted period (and otherwise are exempted as “primitive camps”). They are waiting for surveyor on subdividing land but we will need to go back to do a review in the next couple of weeks.

- Update on education and outreach possibilities, including through social media and for landowner awareness of important areas for wildlife movement habitat through Town.

- o If we have a tracking workshop and iNaturalist training session we could contact landowners near crossings and invite them to come to learn how to track and collect data in hopes of inspiring them to participate and provide an opportunity to share information.

- Discuss plans for Emerald Ash Borer presentation.

- o November 14 th presentation at Ragle Hall, 6:30, MCC, state forester and state entomologist. We need to advertise this in Front Porch Forum, Facebook, etc.

- Discuss potential new aquatic invasive species prevention and survey measures in S VT.

- o There was a big catch of Zebra Mussels found on a boat coming in to Harriman Reservoir.

- o More work on invasive species, Somerset, Harriman new sites, no active plant invasions at Harriman but might we do something similar at South Pond? –Maybe seek funding for data collection Windham county conservation district?

- Update on folk who may be interested in joining the CC.

- o Barbara Cole and Eric Slayton are both interested in joining and will hopefully come to the next meeting.

- Next meeting will be November 11, 2019.

- Create a Minutes taking roster for future meetings (and reminder for circulating present draft minutes).

Minutes need to be circulated within 5 days to Lauren and Forrest, post on Google Drive at that time and also the minute-taker should send in the approved

minutes from the previous meeting to Forrest for them to be archived. We need to remind the minute-taker at the end of the meeting of this each time.

Pieter will take minutes.

- Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jaime Tanner