

Marlboro Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2022

In attendance: Eva Grimaldi, Hunter Jack, Lindy Corman, Emily Falta, Lucia Marie, Hannah Brookman

Called to order by Chair at 6:07 pm

Approved minutes from 11/2/22

No unscheduled public comment

1) Introductions - Each member shared their particular interest in joining this commission and what they hope to give to and gain from membership.

- Lindy - camaraderie, learning opportunity; passionate about exploring how affordable housing can be consonant with conservation; listening to conflicting interests within the community and considering how they might be resolved
- Eva - passionate about growing old in this community - wants to be mindful of how this town/land evolves over time and considerate about how we develop in the future; excited to communicate and collaborate with other boards and commissions and create connections
- Hunter - exposure to workings of small town democracy; drawn to contribute to conservation efforts due to the urgency of climate change and winter warming; get to know the community
- Lucia - would love to see the CC have a stronger presence in the town; more collaboration from residents of all ages, more connection to school, south pond association, potash hill, etc; interested in educational efforts and passionate about protecting the land we live on
- Hannah - excited to live here for a long time and get involved in the community; fun to learn together; curious about how we can do things locally but be connected to state resources and build partnerships and participate in some of the things happening more broadly
- Emily - want to be more engaged with the town and collaborate with the broader community; enjoys organizing efforts and facilitating group discussion around important issues; curious to learn more about how this group engages with the planning commission and select board and future development as we think about the potential of forced migration due to climate change

2) Mission statement discussion

- Shared some other VT CC mission statements as examples and discussed the benefit of having a slightly broad/vague mission statement while we're still defining our goals and developing our understanding of how we relate to the town
- Read Chapter 118, title 24 - outlines our role and responsibilities
- Desire to create a user manual/legacy document to pass onto future iterations of the conservation commission
- Discussed questions we have as a newly formed commission; looked at the Marlboro Zoning District map together; discussed what lands the CC can impact; curious about how the Priority Conservation Overlay influences development decisions; read page 17 of zoning regulations, (section 308)

- After discussion we voted and unanimously agreed to adopt the following as our current mission statement:

“The mission of the Marlboro Conservation Commission as defined by Vermont law is to collaborate with the town to establish community responsibility or stewardship for its natural and cultural resources.”

3) CC website and email address

- Members will take a turn each month managing the official email account and will copy the rest of the commission on pertinent/time sensitive communication (December - Emily)
- Any announcements/community-wide communication will be approved by a majority of the commission before being shared
- Lucia volunteered to establish and manage a new Marlboro CC facebook group so we can post announcements to the town facebook page
- Future website ambitions - could be a good place for educational materials; make it more interactive; town admin can help when/if we decide to do this

4) How do we want to introduce ourselves to the town and engage the community moving forward?

- Be very mindful of how we engage – listen, respond, collaborate, build connections
- Community outreach - solicit ideas about what goals and initiatives we might pursue
- Idea to host a meet and greet at the community center sometime in February or March; put something in the Marlboro Mixer, FPF, facebook, etc.

5) Next steps

- Draft an email to the planning commission and DRB to gain greater clarity around expectations for how our commissions collaborate with and support each other (Emily)
- Follow up on emails from this past month and report back to rest of commission (Eva)
 - Initiative around invasive species
 - Ash borer inventory – reach out to Piet VanLoon and see if he’s already in communication with the person we received an email from
- Next meeting on Wednesday, January 4:
 - Come up with a plan and timeline for community outreach - both virtual and in-person
 - Consider other short term goals
 - Review communication from planning commission and DRB; understand our responsibilities
 - Further discussion about invasives and ash inventory

Meeting adjourned by Chair at 7:20 pm