

Town of Marlboro Conservation Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 6:00 - 7:15 pm

**Draft Minutes**

**CC Members:** Hannah Brookman, Lindy Corman (Chair), Hunter Jack (Secretary), Eva Grimaldi (co-chair)

**Guest attendees:** Patti Smith, Mary Sargent (Zoning Commissioner), Francie Marbury (via Zoom)

Called to order by Chair at 6:09 pm

July's Minutes Unanimously Approved

**Identify Any Changes to the Agenda:** Nancy Anderson not present; removed from agenda.

**New Business**

- Patti Smith joined this meeting to present a brief overview of local beavers and their connection to flooding. The Town Plan - and its language surrounding wetlands and beavers, specifically Item 6 in the Water Resources Action Steps of the Town Plan - locates Marlboro as an important wetland region yet with no oversight or protection of its wetlands (Class 2 are only ones mapped, Class 3 are too small to be listed and/or mapped). Aerial photographs from the 1940s and 1960s in the Green River watershed indicate very few beaver wetlands, yet today there are many. Roads being constructed along flatish terrain and a beavers' inclination to utilize culverts and narrowing water as an aide to damming has created a node of contention: beaver habitat and floodplain remediation versus road maintenance and safety. Idea was proposed to map our town's wetlands with some discussion surrounding the pros and cons of such a map to both the town and to private landowners. CC decided to learn what watershed classification means for our rivers and wetlands. Idea was proposed to visit the 7 beaver deceiver sites - 2 North Pond. Rd., 3 Grant Rd., Adams Crossroad, Lower Dover Rd., Larrabie Rd. - in town to check up on their state of repair and observe their effectiveness. Idea was proposed to find volunteers within the community to keep debris (sticks, etc.) from blocking beaver deceiver grates and to post updates in community spaces online. The most recent Select Board meeting discussed this question of maintenance and it was decided the CC will follow and engage with this conversation in the future at the upcoming August 10th and August 24th meetings.
- Francie Marbury joined via Zoom speaking officially on behalf of Hogback Mountain Conservation Association. Discussion concerned the two bodies' overlapping missions. How can we work together in a fun, easy way? The HMCA board has suggested : CC members participation in strategic, timely removal sessions of invasive species in Hogback preserve; CC being trained in identification of and best removal practices of

invasives; CC being updated on the rewriting of principles by the Hogback Management Oversight Committee; HMCA/HMOC/CC sharing tables and literature at the Marlboro Town Fair

### **Scheduled Business**

- Follow-up discussion on preparation for tabling at the Fair. CC agreed to follow up via email with Francie and HMCA to plan more regarding the fair. **Lindy** will initiate further email discussion between CC and HMCA. Ideas were exchanged regarding activities, beaver deceivers (information available from Beaver Institute in MA), ash tree inventory subtraining, etc.
- Ash borer subtraining of inventory app rescheduled for Hannah for Monday 8/7. Discussion around additional subtraining at the Fair. **Hunter** will photocopy ash borer education material and print out a large scale town road map to delegate inventory to volunteers.
- Hannah wrote and illustrated an info-sheet on Japanese Knotweed for the next Mixer. **Hannah** will talk with Nick re: uploading resource links onto the CC section of the town website.
- **Eva** will reach out to Nancy Anderson to reschedule her appearance at a future CC meeting and to find out more about invasive species information for Fair.

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm.