

Town of Marlboro Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 6:00 - 7:25 pm

Draft Minutes

CC Members: Hannah Brookman, Lindy Corman (Chair), Hunter Jack (Secretary), Eva Grimaldi (co-chair), Christina Schneider, Beth Johnson, Katherine Andrews

Guest attendees: Mary Sargent and Homer

Called to order by Chair at 6:08 pm

Identify Any Changes to the Agenda:

No changes except to the order of business.

Scheduled Business

- Anything 500+ feet from the road requires a 'Conditional Use' permit. According to Mary Sargent, it is very possible to loop in the Conservation Commission to any triggered permit applications via the Commission Gmail account.
- Survey from Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC). Tiny Grants Deadline April 3rd. **Hannah** filled out the survey during the meeting. **Christina** will do the Tiny Grant in collaboration with the folks managing the invasive species mitigation project at South Pond. Who was handling the petition to request funds from the town for \$1,000 for stipends for the invasive species checkers?
- Ash tree ID - **Eva** will write an email to both the CC and to participants of the ash tree inventory about the new prize awarded to participants who id 50 or more trees. Emerald Star Prize! **Christina** will make the graphic design for the pin. **Hannah** will make the pins.
- Hendricks Land - **Hannah** will email Jenny to request an update on the grant application.
- Conservation Commission Facebook Page: Post Ideas – Warnings for when we will have meetings, Hannah's invasive species articles, Links to interesting articles (**Eva** will come up with a list of articles), Photos of anything natural and interesting (Photo contest??), Wednesdays posting weekly, **Hunter** will forward Ash Borer info packets to Christina for posting.
- Beaver - Human Conflict Manual -
 - Vt Fish and Wildlife manual intended to preserve wetlands as best as possible while managing human-beaver conflicts. The manual utilizes a step-by-step process on how to deal with beavers.

- Beavers - keystone species that create wetlands and floodplains, tilling creates nutrients, breaks up monocultures, pelts and high protein meat (considered a renewable resource), thinning of the forests.
- Beavers were eliminated by 1800s but back to a healthy population by 1940. Is there overcrowding? Is that an issue? State goal is population as high as possible, without affecting public use of waterways or creating human-beaver conflict.
- Springfield office of Agency of Natural Resources manages state-installed beaver deceivers.
- Dams are destroyed routinely causing flooding downstream, effecting wildlife via silt, inefficiently controlling population since they come back.

Questions:

How can the CC promote the benefits of beavers to the community without offending the sensibilities of landowners and their rights? Infographic?

Is there a way to inform homeowners of the role that Marlboro residents have as being near the headwaters of several rivers and the ‘downstream’ effect we can have on flooding in Brattleboro and other adjacent towns?

What is our responsibility in light of flooding being one of if not the most pressing issue of climate change?

What is the policy in other towns?

Does it make sense to establish a volunteer group (with Tiny Grant funds?) to offer mitigation of beaver effects that is an alternative to trapping?

- **Hannah** emailed Patti Smith to see if she would attend our next meeting.