

**Charlotte Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting: 2/18/14**

Present: Bob Hyams, Fritz Tegatz, Roel Boemans, Joanna Cummings, Gary Pittman, Mariana Du Brul

Gary notes that he will not seek reappointment when his term is up next month.

Progress on subdivision site assessment protocol: Joanna will put checklist on town website. State has brochures that they've already made. Joanna gave them to Jeannine to hand out. Fritz asks if we should have an introductory letter to accompany the brochures to be handed out when people come in. Joanna agrees.

Map discussion: Roel: wants to have data from the things we say to assess on the site assessment protocol accessible in map format in the habitat map. He is working with Pam. Bob will help make decisions about what is the most important data that could be added first. We discussed developing a new product, perhaps separate from the Habitat Map: CATNIP (Conservation Assessment Tool Negating Impact Problems). (working project name only!)

Process for updating the hab map with ecological reports. One question is how to screen for the people doing the site assessments? Can we have a list of reputable/knowledgeable ecologists who we would like to be hired? Jesse Moore, Arrowwood... we can say we strongly recommend hiring one of these people, but we couldn't require it b/c usually the landowner/developer usually pays for it.

Discussion of "habitat"--this is a confusing term as it doesn't refer to the habitat for a specific animal.

How to get the reports linked to the data? Somehow reference any reports that are available on the map. Joanna will talk to Jeannine about first getting all the reports that are out there. She will try to bring them to our March meeting. We also need to figure out a process for future reports so they can more directly get linked to hab map.

Town Plan: we should start thinking about projects that reflect the NR strategies. Fritz notes that we should wait until the town plan is adopted. Joanna says most of the strategies (if not all the policies that we developed) at least will be in the plan—we can at least start thinking about what to work on. We need to get a copy of what the PC decided to put in the Town Plan.

Frogbit: Selectboard Oked our budget request. Who on ConsComm wants to run it? Bob will consider running it...needs to know more about LCA involvement. What will the cash go toward? Maybe Holly would be interested??

[Green Up Day...Joanna has talked to Joe]

Town Farm Bay classification:

Last communication with Alan Quackenbush was Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> before he retired. Text included below for future reference. Questions with asterisks are from M. Du Brul; Blue responses are from A. Quackenbush.

\*Will the Thorp-Kimball wetlands be included in the list of wetlands you hope to push through all at once?

No, we are limiting the first list to ones we have studied this past summer.

\*Is the state-list approach to reclassification what will be happening going forward? Or is it still incumbent on other bodies to petition for reclassification? The process will include both our candidates and petitions from others.

\*Have you had a chance to review the data I gave you? Do you think there is enough to make a complete petition (whether via the state list process or external body)? Yes; you have most of the information we need. However, Wetlands Program staff will still need to concur with the information, and make their own assessment after adequate field review. We are in the process of developing Class 1 criteria.

\*Who should we be in contact with about this after you retire? When is your last day? My last day as manager of the wetlands program is Dec. 27, 2013. You should contact Laura going forward; we made the announcement last week that she is the new Wetlands Program Manger. I may be staying on for a time part-time to help with the transition.

\*Is there anything else we can do to support the reclassification process? You can work on getting access to the wetlands from the uplands, and also set up a day in the spring or early summer for the wetlands staff to visit. They may be able to see enough from the lake as we did this past May. I will still be around and would be glad to help you out if I can. – Best wishes. - Alan

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Bottom-line: the wetlands cannot be reclassified without more field review by ANR staff and we have been denied permission (via attorneys) for access by both Town Line Road LLC and Katherine Arthaud's property. Mariana says she is burned-out, suggests that supporting efforts for voluntary landowner conservation of property(s) or at least buffers, might be the next best step. Ultimately, this might be more protective of the ecological assets anyway. Joanna says she will suggest for Kate Lampton to contact Austin Hart (at Dinse), attorney for Town Line Road LLC, to see if they are interested in talking to CLT.

CHIC:

initiated by Sue Smith, she and Marty made \$1000 request to start addressing invasives. Idea is to treat phragmites first. Discussion of phragmites: native vs non-native... mitochondrial DNA, stomatal density, CO2 fertilization, monocultures

Proposed purchase requests approved by Commission:

\*Municipal Day: March 31: Bob, Joanna (anyone else who wants to attend should let Joanna know ASAP)

\*portable projector

\*color copies of handouts for town office

Staying Connected: Joanna looking in to whether we can host one here and invite adjacent towns.

Town meeting: we need a display

Nature Notes: Gary: great horned owl looking for voles at birdfeeder; Mariana: blue bird at feeder.