

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Roelof Boumans, Joanna Cummings, Mariana Du Brul, Robert Hyams, Gary Pittman, Holly Sullivan, Fritz Tegatz, Howard Verman

Minutes

Tuesday March 5, 2013 7:00-9:00 pm Town Hall

Nature Notes: bluebirds come to meal worms, here all winter, bluebird sighting, bobcat tracks & scat at Park & Wildlife Refuge, sap & bees both early, Brewer's blackbird, mink, barred owl, eagle

Review Minutes

- need to review second November meeting minutes.

ACTION: Bob to send resend minutes

Ongoing Business

- Conservation Currents: Holly to send out schedule. Mariana in March, Bob in April (will do grassland birds). Need to advertise Green Up Day in April issue.

ACTION: Holly to find out what happened to link to back Conservation Currents articles on News website.

- Planning Commission: Gary will attend Leberge mtg.
- Town Farm Bay Protection update: Mariana re-capped effort to date of Class I Wetland petition. Alan Quackenbush will come to our April 23rd meeting to look at aerial photos, answer questions, plan field visit.

ACTION: Mariana to contact landowners, Dean, John Owen inviting all to April 23rd meeting. Mariana mentioned H.223 shorelands bill, encouraged others to investigate.

- Town Farm Bay Stewardship: Subcommittee of Bob, Holly, Joanna and Mariana to meet and discuss Commission role in frogbit project this summer.

ACTION: Mariana to schedule meeting before regular March Commission meeting.

- Watershed: no funds, have applied for grants, partners not willing to spend more time beyond cafes, Joanna and Bob are re-assessing to see where things stand.

ACTION: All Commissioners should read program description to see if/where they could help & become more involved. <http://yellowladyslipper.org/watershed/about/>

- Town Plan update: Jim Donovan still to review our section.

Habitat Map

- the link is: maps.ccrpcvt.org/WLHabMap/

Roel: data should be downloadable.

- User's Guide, Database report for each polygon for forest, aquatic and shrubland habitat, some polygons have been thoroughly field-checked, others are evaluated via

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- GIS so have less information. A process needs to be developed to feed any subsequent data into the map.
- Site assessment protocol: designed for ecologists to look at a piece of land and apply the principals. Also need protocol for how cons comm & planning comm members use the map.
 - Linkage: Roel: species-area relationships, Fritz: can't have report that pops up with "no data," needs some information available when you click on the polygon. Decided we should include the paragraph from the User's Guide on what linkage habitat is in each linkage report as a start. Could also include enhancement of calculation of what the linking function contributes (Roel: to look at the technical guide)
 - Discussion of how new data can get put in to the map. Maybe once a year, take new data from consultants, reports, citizen sightings, and upload. Public process with planning comm.
 - Discussion of the draft protocol for Assessment of Impacts of Proposed Development on Significant Wildlife Habitat in Charlotte.
 - Get map into best shape we can, then need to bring it to PC for discussion of protocol and next steps.

ACTION: Roel & Fritz to work on improving the documentation for linkage.

- need paragraph or instructions on how this is an advisory tool in order to dispel perception that it is meant to be regulatory.

ACTION: All Conservation Commission members should use the map & use it critically.

New Business deferred until next meeting: Shelburne meet up, AVCC, GLB program, Horsfords/invasive plant program