

# CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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*Anne Bijur, Trafton Crandall, Suzy Hodgson,  
Robert Hyams, Gary Pittman, Holly Sullivan, Howard Verman*

## **Draft Minutes for Charlotte Conservation Commission**

Meeting of May 26, 2009, Charlotte Town Hall, 7:00-9:30 pm.

In attendance: Bob Hyams, Suzy Hodgson, Anne Bijur, Howard Verman, Gary Pittman, Holly Sullivan, Sylvia Knight

Suzy Hodgson was appointed as recording secretary for this meeting.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

### **Confirmation of assignments**

Holly Sullivan has been appointed as a member to the Trails Committee.

The remit of CCC was discussed – particularly its breadth in managing conservation – the question being - should conservation include only land conservation or be more broadly interpreted to include cultural conservation?

**ACTION**– Bob to look at the State statutes for the definition as to the remit of town conservation commissions

### **Review minutes format, protocol**

The process of rotating secretaries was discussed and it was agreed to send out minutes within one week of the meeting and for comments to be returned within one week. The Secretary of the meeting would be responsible for sending out the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of minutes and after comments have been incorporated, the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft minutes. Once the minutes are approved, the secretary would send the final approved minutes to Holly to post on the Website,

It was agreed to postpone the approval of minutes from x to x until the June meeting.

### **PC update**

It was agreed that the CCC would develop a planning matrix to consistently report on planning applications. This matrix would include key information such as applicant name, location, plot size, member of CCC covering the application, and status of application (i.e. sketch plan or final).

**ACTION** – Bob to draft out an appropriate matrix for this purpose.

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## NEW BUSINESS

### **Herbicide use at VELCO Substation**

Sylvia Knight presented an overview of the possibility of herbicide application at the substation owned and operated by VELCO next to Pringle Brook which drains into Holmes Creek and then the Lake. Discussion centered on the community's right to know about possible herbicide application, which could pose a potential future risk to wetlands and public health. CCC considered their role in making information available to the community.

### **Map, next step**

Bob reported that the habitat map "question and answer" session cleared up a number of concerns specific to the map. However, acceptance of the map by the select board has been tied to a wider discussion of the map's future use as a basis for a Conservation Action Plan and implications for revising land-use regulations.

ACTION – Trafton – to make copies of the habitat database available to CCC members

### **Media relations; Charlotte News, Charlotte Citizen,**

The potential of using the media more fully for conservation news was discussed. The local newspapers can provide channels for raising awareness of conservation issues and influencing community opinions on the importance of these issues and possible actions to take.

ACTION – Anne to write the next Charlotte Currents piece on energy issues. Howard to write the following piece on habitat. Suzy to provide them with deadlines and editorial support.

### **Virtual Farmers Market (aka homesteaders group)**

Suzy mentioned a proposal for setting up a virtual website for Charlotte farm and garden produce to be sold and/or bartered from and for Charlotte residents.

### **Taking stock/Focus for the year ahead**

Bob suggested the concept of an overarching theme for the year ahead and introducing this theme at the Town Party. Water was suggested as a possible theme as it is next year's enrichment topic for CCS, ties in with the Groundwater Study, and could also tie in with habitat and energy issues.

ACTION – each member to reflect upon this concept for further discussion next meeting.

Suzy ducked out early to attend to three piglets squealing in the back of the car.

## **NATURE NOTES**

There were no nature notes this month, yikes.