

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 24, 2013

Howard, Roel, Joanna, Mariana, Holly, Bob arrived later.

approval of August minutes: approved. Discussion about VT Open Meeting Law: says minutes should be available 5 days after meeting. We will try circulating draft minutes after meeting and then editing and approving via email so minutes can be posted within the timeframe. Also, this will take review and approval of minutes off the monthly agenda.

Current projects:

Conservation Commission intranet site: google docs: we can all post/edit: log in to gmail account, click on "sites" at the top of the page & Charlotte Cons Comm site should be there.

Town Plan update: policies and strategies are on the google docs site (doc finalized by Joanna and Bob)

Calendar: nov meeting changed to 19th to avoid having it right after thanksgiving.

Planning Commission. Oct 17th meeting, CCC will attend to talk about site evaluation process. We are on the agenda for 7:03. Anyone interested should go.

Jeff Parsons will be doing site assessment for McGinnis property, paid for by landowner.

Can the information from this kind of assessment be added to the significant habitat map? Dean said there is money to update the maps. Roel: who can add data to the map? He says it should be anyone, but people could be ranked as to how professional they are (e.g. field scientist vs. citizen scientist, etc.) so data is weighted or at least annotated. Roel will contact Pam Brangan to see if she can come to Nov meeting or if not, can he at least meet with her to figure out how editing of the SHM could work.

Joanna showed Inaturalist.org website where anyone can upload nature observations. We could be logging observations on here. Is there a way to pull these data points in to the habitat map? We should promote this across the town.

Roel's Conservation Currents article, Marty not happy... was surprised about the questioning of frogbit. We might need to reiterate in the paper that these articles are a reflection of the individual's interests not policy statements from the Cons Comm. Overall, Commission members felt that we support the project but that doesn't preclude asking questions about the ecological functioning of the wetland (including role of frogbit).

On frogbit: we are getting lots of people out there, eyes on the wetlands, Bob discussions with Marty et al. There will be more focus on science and Lake Champlain Committee will help out: try to have them coordinate a week next summer, and also work with Mike Winslow to try to figure out what science might be appropriate. In addition, we should approach UVM to see if anyone would like to do a research project there. Roel has some contacts at Rubenstein school so can ask around.

TFB: Bob and Holly to send dates for dry land visit as Mariana can't lead mid-week outing. MD will coordinate visit. MD to post draft petition to google docs site.

New:

Watershed Cafe: Amy Picotte, Lakewise, new program... what are some problems that might be typical of Charlotte water qual...mailing list to current use participants... lake association mailing lists? Also creek and wetlands. 2 mailings to landowners. Raffle might be 1 hour consult with Nate Carr. Nov.6 This will be the last watershed cafe—funding is used up.

Trails Comm: they would like a letter of support for a grant they are writing. The grant is to work on the Co-housing section of the trail. We agree to have Joanna sign the letter. We should have a liaison to trails comm (though no one volunteered!).

Workplan and budget discussion moved to next month.

Meetings: time and place need to be warned. Discussion about how we need to warn meetings. It looks like if they are re-curring, the time and place just need to be warned, don't need to publish an agenda. We decide that we should get the regular meetings on the town website calendar and also in the little box of public meetings that seems to appear regularly in the Charlotte News.

I didn't take notes on Nature Notes, but we didn't have too many!