

## **Meeting Minutes for April 22, 2014**

**Present:** Joanna Cummings, Roel Boumans, Howard Verman, Fritz Tegatz, Mariana Dubrul, Holly Sullivan

**Guest:** Mel Huff, considering joining Commission

**Recruitment:** Mariana will contact Charlotte News to list openings. Joanna has listed recruitment on conservation commission website. Some discussion about moving to a seven member committee.

Joanna and Roel and Fritz and Bob met with Jesse about site assessment protocol. According to Jeannine, there are 11 ecological reports that have been generated for projects in the town that have not been added to the habitat map. Jesse says there is additional data in an MS Access database. Working on protocol on how to get the data into map. How do we evaluate the data—can the process just be Jeannine to Pam? Site Assessment protocol and technical guide for ecologists to use are now posted on the website. Thank you Joanna!

Pam can add other town maps to the habitat map platform so that it can become a more comprehensive management tool.

Fritz: Selectboard wonders about timing of subdivision reviews and conservation commission opinion. Discussion about open meeting law and assigning a representative to follow subdivision apps. Do we need to convene everyone into a meeting to approve any letters to the Planning Commission? In the past we have nominated a representative to follow the app and speak on behalf of the Commission. Fritz thinks this means opinions are that of the individual, not the Commission. Mariana reads Open Meeting Law which seems to say that we would have to have an actual warned meeting if we were making a group approval of a letter—that we would be avoiding this requirement by approving such letters via email. Also, the Commission has always had individuals work on different aspects; not every piece of Commission business needs to be overseen by all the members...

Kate Lampton (CLT) & Bob Heiser (VLT): Bidinger property: adjacent to Bean farm. Comments from conservation commission to Dean by wed before SB 1st may meeting. Discussion about conservation commission role in conservation funds: if project has no ecological conservation value, why do we weigh in?

Frogbit: discussion about upcoming season: who will coordinate? What will money be spent on? No one on commission wants to coordinate volunteers. Confusion about communications between commission and Lewis Creek. Joanna will ask for an itemized (with better descriptions) budget from last year and for this year.

Conservation currents: Holly to send in grassland birds article for next round.

Nature notes:

Holly: muskrat, grebe, wood ducks, osprey, leopard frog. Joanna: ovenbird. Howard: bobcat. Roel: figured out how to get info from iNaturalist onto our map. He started a project...the charlotte conservation map on iNaturalist. Mariana: woodcock.

