

Charlotte Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 26 2017

In attendance: Amos Baehr, Roel Boumans, Linda Radimer, Susan Blood, Derk Bergquist, Meg Berlin, Erika MacPherson, Mary Van Vleck

Guests: Trails Committee, Krista

DECISIONS

I. Approve minutes August minutes

II. Adopt budget recommendations

--Education and outreach

--Previous: \$750

--Current: \$1000 is requested for 2018-2019 for calendar development and events

--Wildlife corridor/mapping

--Previous: \$1000

--Current: maintain at \$1000 for populating, prepping and printing maps

--Computing and website development

--Previous: \$200

--Current: \$200

--Invasive species management

--Previous \$3700

--Current: maintain at \$3,700 for frogbit and invasives initiative

--Misc.

--Green-up Day: previous \$300, current \$300

--Conservation Alliance: previous \$50 (pays for CCC as a whole), current \$250 (to cover CCC as well as individual participation in annual meetings)

--Calendar \$1500 (rollover)

--Meg made a motion to forward the 2018-2019 budget as proposed; Derk seconded; motion passed

DISCUSSION POINTS

I. Joint session with Trails committee

--Amos introduced the discussion focusing on the general mission of the CCC and its concerns with any kind of development

--Mission of Conservation Commission—there are potential environmental impacts of building trails—we need to be involved to ensure conflicts do not arise

--In our long-range plan, we have a number of goals where we overlap with the goals of the Trails Committee

--Trails committee's charge (paraphrased) is to create connectivity throughout Town for foot, bike, ski and equestrian transportation

--From the wording of the charge in the Town Plan, it is not clear whether all those uses had to be accommodated on each trail or whether connectivity for each method be accommodated perhaps on different trails.

--The CCC's greatest concern with the trail is the lack of process and engagement

--being able to know ahead of time what the plans are

- heading off problems or conflicts before they occur
- want to make sure that trails do not degrade sensitive or natural areas, especially those areas identified as core habitat
 - trails may not only have direct effects, they may also have indirect effects such as movement of invasives, frightening of wildlife, dogs running off-leash
- Discussion of how to collaborate more closely
 - many factors come into play including funding sources, scoping projects,
 - there are overlaps between trails and the mission of the CCC, for example, flora/fauna inventories, wildlife crossings, informational stations, etc.
- Trails Committee would like to know our specific concerns with the State Park Road segment of the trail.
 - Scoping study available at:
[http://www.charlottevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B5618C1B5-BAB5-4588-B4CF-330F32AA3E59%7D/uploads/Draft_Report-STP_BP15\(14\)_Charlotte_20170713.pdf](http://www.charlottevt.org/vertical/sites/%7B5618C1B5-BAB5-4588-B4CF-330F32AA3E59%7D/uploads/Draft_Report-STP_BP15(14)_Charlotte_20170713.pdf)
 - The Town preferred they entertain all three options for the segment, so Trails Committee wants to know what we do and do not like about each option.
 - The CCC will respond as soon as possible

II. Krista presentation of bio-finder tools

- Act 177, Act 250
- biofinder.vt.gov
- Many layers available relevant to our decision-making. Can also add other layers from ANR Atlas or add our own data

III. Conservation Currents

- Reminders were given for upcoming currents

9:00 Adjourn