

Charlotte Conservation Commission  
Agenda  
December 4, 2017  
Charlotte Public Library

Members in attendance: Amos Baehr, Krista Hoffsis, Roel Boumans, Erika MacPherson, Susan Blood, Derk Bergquist

This meeting was called to forward the Connectivity Working Group. We are specifically trying to figure out where to place our two wildlife cameras.

We discussed Biofinder and how useful it is for us to us:

Biofinder was developed for large areas in the Green Mountains- so it's a start when looking at Charlotte but not the end all be all. Roel wants to bring Biofinder to a finer resolution. Roel suggests talking to Jens to learn about the algorithms behind Biofinder and use those to make it better for Charlotte. Our understanding is it's based on landscape statistics. With better resolution for Charlotte we can use Biofinder to predict where animals are. Maybe this is a question for Jens - who does not want to do a finer scale - as to whether it can be done. We should ask him: "Do the algorithms apply at that scale?"

Derk suggested we start with pen and paper and decide where to place the cameras based on where we would predict a wildlife corridor might be.

The Significant Wildlife Habitat Map is based on land cover as seen from Satellites. We have data from 12 parcels and they need to be transferred onto the SWH map, but Charlotte has 959 parcels so 12 parcels isn't much of a sample.

The purpose of learning about the key connectivity parcels in Charlotte is to know where they are so that when someone proposes something, we can make a recommendation based on how we estimate it would effect wildlife.

What species are indicators of good core or linkage habitat?

Maybe Charlotte is all linkage habitats - not core habitat?

For now we just need to move from theoretical to practical and get out there with our cameras.

Derk suggests looking for a place where we know wildlife travel and then pointing one camera towards that area and one camera away from it to see what we can learn. He suggested on Bingham Brook Road and will check in with the relevant landowners before our meeting next Tuesday, December 12th. Bingham Brook leads to the crossing that Linda often mentions with the bobcat crossings.

One other way to use the cameras is to monitor wildlife before and after a development is built and see what changes we can find. That would be interesting!

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Minutes submitted by Susan Blood, Secretary.