

Charlotte Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 27 2016

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

DECISIONS

I. Minutes Approval

--A motion was made to approve the MAY minutes, this was seconded and the May minutes were approved as written.

II. Review of current year budget

--The budget included \$\$ for wildlife cameras and for wildlife crossing signs, neither of which have been purchased.

4- --Meg is going to spearhead research on camers and it appears we could buy 3 or depending on price. \$600 has been budgeted.

--The cost of the signs is a bit of an unknown at the moment, but about \$400 should be sufficient

--The education and outreach group is interested in getting some basic recording/sound equipment. It would cost ~\$160.

--The Commission currently has no central location for data/information, so it was decided to buy an economical computer for \$500.

--Meg moved to approve these expenditures for the 2016-2017 budget year, this was seconded by Roel and was approved unanimously.

III. Town Link Trail - proposed State Park Road segment

--The Commissioners discussed the trail along state park road proposed by the Trails Committee.

--Roel proposed a motion that the CCC write a statement of our position that we support a town trail but that we oppose the eight-foot wide gravel trail along State Park Road as currently proposed because of potential environmental impacts. Meg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

--Meg suggested we write a more detailed letter describing our position to the Trails Committee. Amos urged us to be sensitive to the very hard work and committment of the Trails Committee. The letter structure includes 1) the statement of our position and 2) strongly urge the Trails Committee to consult with the Conservation Commission onthe design, construction and potential environmental impact of current and future trails. Meg made a motion seconded by Roel to write the letter to the Trails Committee; the motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION POINTS

I. Status reports from working groups (5 min. Each)

A. Connectivity

--Linda mentioned she felt this group was not making much progress. This was acknowledged by other working group members.

B. Ecological Principles

- No progress since last presentation
- C. Town Plan/ Planning commission issues
 - Roel wrote a clear definition of core habitat relevant to our landscape. A number of commission members voiced their support for the definition.
 - Some discussion of Twon Plan and the ability of Commission to influence and it. The sections most relevant to us are development, agriculture and conservation.
 - Still a desire to figure out how to support clustered housing as a development practice in Charlotte.
- D. Education and Outreach
 - Members attended an ecosystem services and how they can be used for taxation meeting/workshop at Windy Corners.
 - Considering making a series of YouTube videos explaining ecosystem services. First, a study could be helpful in determining how people in Charlotte consume media.
- E. Conservation Currents
 - More topics and authors were discussed to fill out the Conservation Currents schedule.

Meeting adjourned