

Charlotte Conservation Commission  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2018  
Charlotte Town Offices  
7:00 PM

Members in attendance: Amos Baehr, Krista Hoffsis, Susan Blood, Derk Bergquist,  
Linda Rattimer, and Mary van Vleck.  
Guest: Mel Huff

### **Presentation on Conceptual Models by Derk**

Richard Margoluis encouraged the use of Conceptual Models to help groups determine where to focus their efforts in terms of making the most impact!

Scope - for us the town of Charlotte

Conservation Targets - which element of biodiversity we are focusing on. Pick 4 or 5 - up to 8.

Direct Threat - A human action that immediately degrades the conservation targets.

Contributing Factors - the indirect threats that cause the direct threat.

Strategy - A group of actions with a common focus

Attack the cause not the symptom!

The model is a living breathing thing - it will change with who is on the committee and also with what we've learned.

Results chains - use a sequence of events laid out in if-then statements.

Build in realistic lag times for objectives - things take time!

Let's say the scope is Charlotte.

Possible targets:

- Bobcats
- **Aquatic Habitat and Water Quality** ← *next one?*
- **Terrestrial wildlife habitat and corridors** ← *let's focus on this one to begin with.*
- Riparian zones
- Natural plant communities
- Town owned lands
- Bird populations - nesting/breeding habitats
- Mt. Philo and the corridors that lead to it / from it

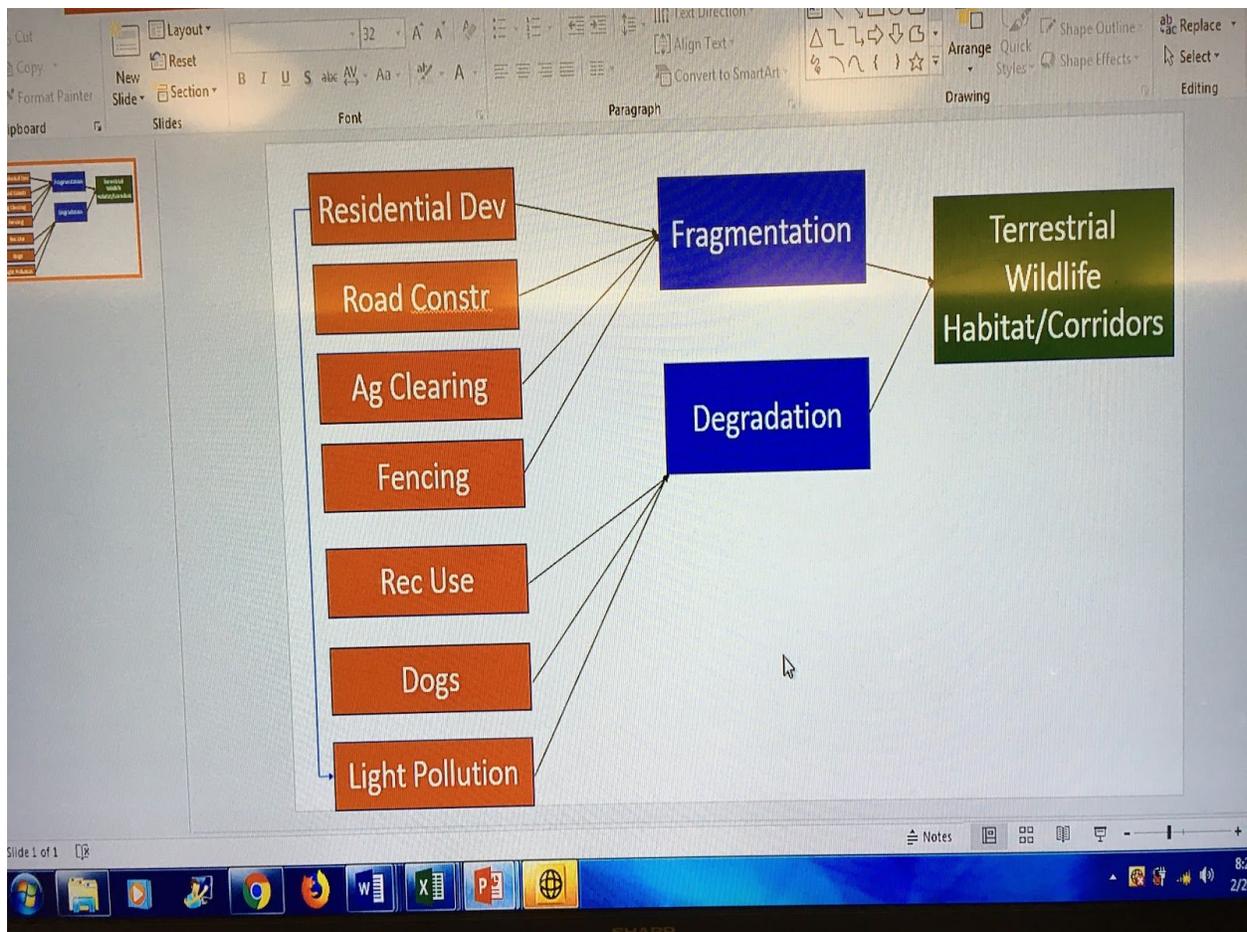
- Fish spawning habitat
- Viewscapes
- Lake Champlain shoreline
- Recreation areas
- Wildlife
- **Pollinators**

(The **bolded** items in the list above are the ones we thought we'd focus on for now. That could, of course, change!)

What are the threats to **Terrestrial wildlife habitat and corridors**?

- Fragmentation → contributors: residential development, road construction, clearing for agriculture, trails, dogs and their poop, light pollution, old fences,

Derk laid this out so we could see how this will work. Create 1 model for each target and then see what they have in common so you can make a linked map of the threats with the targets. Here is a picture of our first target - not finished but it give you an idea:



How should we move forward? Should a small group meet once or twice and come back to the group with what they come up with?

Looked at Long Range Planning Document to see where we are in terms of getting things done!  
We:

- Created a lending library for invasive extracting tools.
- Meg Berlin and Linda Rattimer participated in a site visit on town land.
- Etc.

This planning will go hand in hand with the conceptual modeling in terms of giving us direction!

---

We scheduled a corridor working group meeting which would work on the conceptual model we started tonight. March 15th at 7pm at Mary van Vleck's house.

---

Krista will send info about a Phragmites workshop.

---

Reviewed minutes for December 2017 and January 2018. Motion made to accept them, seconded and approved!

Motion was made to adjourn! Seconded and passed! Good night!

9:10 - adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Susan Blood, Secretary for the CCC.