

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 23,2018
Charlotte Town Offices
7:00pm

Members in attendance:

**Amos Baehr, Roel Boumans, Mary Van Vleck, Linda Radimer,
Kevin Burget, Erika MacPherson, Krista Hoffsis, Derk Bergquist, and Susan Blood**

7:00 - Adjustments to agenda and public comment

7:10 - Approve Sept. Minutes -moved and seconded - approved unanimously.

7:15 - **Discuss Holiday meeting schedule and process for annual report.** Our November meeting is on November 27th which is the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Our December meeting would be on Christmas. Let's skip the meeting in December! Motion made to skip the December meeting unless an important issue comes up. Seconded and approved. We'll discuss this again at the November meeting.

Amos will write up a draft for the annual report and circulate it for feedback.

7:30 - Update town business

Email address - We have an email set up with the town via Dean and it is conservation@townofcharlotte.com . I tried logging into this with the information Erika forwarded me but was unable to. I (Susan) will contact Dean this coming week to figure this out. Apparently we also have the email charlottevtcc@gmail.com. If anyone knows how to access that email then we can link that email to our google drive folder which Roel is currently hosting. Neither of these emails is on our CCC section of the town website but once we get these straightened out, we should post the Town of Charlotte email for the public and set up an auto forward to several members so community members can be in touch with us and get a response.

Budget - We asked for \$750 for sign posts for next year. Do we need to adjust that? We have 16 signs. Linda will check with the sign people to get an accurate price. We discussed how to figure out where to put them and decided one way would be to look at the map of Charlotte to estimate where wildlife corridors and crossings are.

One issue that came up when Amos defended our budget to the Selectboard was where we should keep our computer. A motion was made and seconded to keep our computer

at the library - unanimously approved. Kevin and Derk volunteered to help Amos getting the computer working and getting wildlife camera images on there. Also all the agendas and minutes need to be on there as well as any letters, correspondence etc.

Planning commission / town plan - There are revisions to the town plan and the first public hearing is going to be on Thursday, November 15th. The plan now uses the language land of high public value. This was triggered by the Energy Commission which has been working with the Planning Commission. Maybe someone from the Energy Commission could meet with us. This pertains to commercial solar arrays and other energy producing outfits.

Trails committee update - from Mary. They want to go ahead with the State Park Rd. section of the Town Trail. They have \$5000 from the town already but are asking for an extra \$30,000 for the trail which is approximately \$10 per household. If it's in the budget it has the selectboards support but if it needs to be a separate article to get funding that would be harder. Dean will ask property owners if there can be some parking along State Park Rd. Jim Donovan who attended our last meeting is meeting with a steering committee which will meet regularly. Is there anyone else from CCC who wants to attend these meetings? Linda would attend when Mary cannot. They want *specific* feedback from us. For instance we look at trees a little differently than they might - an ash tree might be good habitat. Again, because this is along the road we are agreed again that we are in support of this section of the Town Trail.

8:00 - Connectivity working group

iNaturalist role - can we incorporate Charlotte iNaturalist sightings into our iNaturalist. And then use that to add to the wildlife habitat map. Should we have a little workshop again? Perhaps Meg Berlin would be willing to go through this again with members?

Camera reports - Linda and Krista put them up by Pizza on Earth to capture a known bob cat crossing. One is on a post, one is on a tree. Thank you to Linda and Krista!

Map practice - Significant Habitat Wildlife Map. Some data has been updated as of 2013. Derk, Roel and Krista have a good sense of these maps. Roel suggests coming up with a protocol to update these maps. Are we looking to update the sources for these maps? Are there better data sets available? Biofinder is an algorithm that uses 30 m sq patches and determines what kind of habitat it is based on the color. We can use [Biofinder](#) to make a good guess and then use our cameras to prove it.

[Technical Guide to Classifying, Identifying, and Justifying Significant Wildlife Habitat in Charlotte, Vermont](#)

8:30 - Conservation Currents - we are in good shape for the next few months.

8:45 - adjourn - motion made and seconded. All approved.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Susan Blood.