

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2018
Charlotte Town Offices
7:00 PM

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

7:10 - Approve Dec. Minutes

Minutes were not sent to the members of the CCC - the secretary will send out 2 months of minutes and we'll approve them at the next meeting. Draft minutes were posted online.

7:15 - Discuss town plan work schedule (density, core habitat)

Amos talked with Daryl at the Brick Store regarding the Town Plan. There will be a major revision of the Energy Section a year from now and perhaps we could piggyback on that process. We could get our local definition of "critical habitat" into the town plan and also ask for protection of larger tracts.

We discussed matching people who want to sell development rights with people who want to develop. Perhaps this is something to work with the Land Trust on. Can we incentivise landowners to sell development rights, say if it's part of a wildlife corridor? And this might be something to work with the Planning Commission on.

Mary mentioned an agreement that landowners around [Elk Lake](#) in the Adirondacks had where actual land was traded. Something to look into and learn from.

Linda would be willing to talk to the selectboard about what is involved in transferring land for the benefit of wildlife.

7:45 - Social Marketing -adopt rough schedule

Are we ready to learn more about social marketing with Rebecca Brooks who Mel Huff has been in touch with? We need to educate fellow townspeople about wildlife corridors. Amos suggested having a walk on the town trail and have an iNaturalist demo at the beginning.

Also how can people let us know if there is a dependable wildlife road crossing - how about if they send us an email? What is our email address? charlottevtcc@gmail.com Linda will check with Dean Bloch to get the password.

What if the town has a PHP server so people could add their observations to the database. Let's adopt someone's form so people can give us useful information if they don't want to use iNaturalist.

How to we inform people in a way that makes them feel like they need to do something? Until we know what we want to present, perhaps going through the training is premature. Although perhaps doing her introduction might be worthwhile now so we can educate people about how to give us their wildlife observations.

Looking at the Long Range Planning Process would be good and it might give us a focus for a social media campaign. Amos will meet with new CCC members to go over it.

We concluded that we would go through Derk's training and then let's see where we are. After that we'll make a decision about doing an intro session with Rebecca Brooks.

8:00 - Connectivity working group update

Next meeting Feb 7th 6-7pm at Mary van Vlecks house! She will send out information beforehand. Krista will look at new cameras beforehand and we'll talk specifics in terms of setting up a camera!

Camera reports - "Wild Game" cameras - Krista learned that these are inexpensive but take good pictures!!!

Derk will try and set up a camera and then we'll see what he finds.

What about the cold and the cameras? Seems like unless it's very cold regular batteries will work.

Schedule presentations by Roel and Derk - Derk is ready! He needs about an hour! Let's schedule our next meeting for Feb 20th since the 27th is during school break. Derk will send out materials for us to look at before the meeting.

Motion was made to change the Feb meeting date to the 20th. Seconded and passed.

Conservation Currents:

Thank you, Krista! Next is Erika and then Linda and then Mary!

April / May - an article about sparrows. We should write about wildlife corridors! And we could write about our experiences with wildlife cameras!

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

8:45 - adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Susan Blood, Secretary for the CCC.