

Charlotte Conservation Commission

Draft Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 25, 2016

In attendance: Amos Baehr, Meg Berlin, Susan Blood, Roel Boumans, Michael Kirk, Linda Radimer, Mary Van Vleck, and guest: Mel Huff

Next Meeting: November 9, 2016 at 7 pm

Amos reported on the **AVCC conf. “Celebrating Place,”** especially the “Place Program” by SF and UVM, a place-based series of presentations taking in the physical, biological and social resources of an environment.

Re AVCC Listserve: Amos asked if all members would consent to having their email addresses forwarded to the AVCC. Most consented.

Conservation Currents: Mary Van Vleck agreed to be coordinator for the next year. Mel will send her a scheduling chart.: Mel will write a Seguin bridge history with photos for the next Conservation Currents. Meg will likely write about Charlotte trees; and someone should write about the presence of Phragmites in Charlotte.

The largest elm tree in the state, located on Thompson’s Point Road, the second largest elm in the nation, died recently. There will be a celebration of this tree on November 1st and everyone is invited.

The CCC must review **reports by developers** for the Planning Dept, to check for accuracy and for significant wildlife information that could be included in the town habitat map.

The Trails Committee has hired Dubois and King to scope out the best possible Town Trail location from Cohousing north to Ferry Road and south and east to Mount Philo. We urged Mary, liaison to this committee, to request that D&K talk to CCC members before they proceed too far with their plans. Mary will relay this message at the next meeting (or before by email). Our concern is to protect all wetlands and wildlife corridors.

Next Trails Comm. meeting date to be determined.

Seguin Bridge celebration: the Reopening of the Seguin Bridge will be celebrated on Sunday, November 20th at 2 pm. The bridge will be almost

finished by then, (flooring, roof) and we'll have access to electricity. All CCC members are encouraged to be there. Several speakers will present, incl. two from VTrans to discuss the actual reconstruction, and Dan Cole, (history of the bridge), followed by refreshments at Mark Nash and Kathy Blume's home.

Budget Related Items:

Amos reviewed last year's budget lines; we'll complete this discussion at the next meeting in early November.

Meg requested funds to help her with a Calendar or book project featuring the trees in town, in honor of Larry Hamilton, October 6th. We agreed to set aside \$1500 for this project.

CHIC Report and budget request: Bob Hyams and Susan Smith reported on their efforts to rid the town of Phragmites, present in amounts that could be eradicated (unlike the more abundant buckthorn). They requested \$1400; only \$400 was spent this year, because they were prohibited from tackling the Phragmites at the corner of Ferry and Route 7, owned by VTrans. Bob asked if the CCC could put pressure on VTrans to allow CHIC to treat the phragmites at this corner next year. Linda Radimer expressed interest in being the liaison between CHIC and the CCC, and she accepted Bob's report on their work this year/so far re phragmites. Other invasives mentioned: Yellow Iris, especially along Thorp Brook from Greenbush Road to the lake; and Knotweed infestations on East Charlotte. We later agreed to reserve \$1000 for CHIC.

We watched two videos of Thorp, Kimball Brooks and LaPlatte river entering Lake Champlain, taken by _____

Three Working Groups were created and members enrolled:

- Ecological principles reconfiguration: Derk; Amos and Roel
- Habitat Connectivity verification: Linda; Susan; and Mike
- Larry Hamilton commemorative calendar or book: Meg, Mary

An hour of the next meeting will be dedicated to these three groups.

The meeting was adjourned close to 9:00 pm.