

CHARLOTTE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

DRAFT minutes

Tuesday July 30 , 2013 7:00-9:00 pm Town Hall

In attendance: Roel Boumans, Joanna Cummings, Mariana Du Brul, Bob Hyams (Chair), John Owen (Selectboard liaison), Gary Pittman, Holly Sullivan

There were no changes to the June 25, 2013 minutes: approved.

Conservation currents

Holly: Howard is up next, The Charlotte News is on break so next issue is in September. 800 words is the max. Topics: Bob: we may need to use the space for Conservation Commission business, but usually it is whatever conservation topic you choose.

Ongoing Business

- Frogbit Update. Bob: A little over 72 hours on the water for the week the Conservation Commission was responsible for. There will be a visual assessment of frogbit on Friday. Bob pulled up 4 water chestnuts in the last frogbit session last week. All the official work sessions are done. There has been some paid labor and maybe they are still working this week. There will be a meeting for wrap-up, to discuss the efficacy of the program, impact of frogbit removal on percent cover. Rough science, but do nothing option would result in very dense cover... Joanna: discussion about milfoil vs. frogbit. Which is worse? Does frogbit impede milfoil? Bob: Many questions surrounding frogbit. Also important was getting so many people in to the wetland. Roel: Conservation vacations: people sign-up to come do conservation projects. Joanna: how to keep the project running without spending our whole budget. Discussion: Costs low with this model but time needed to get volunteers together. How to make this project an institution rather than hope that all the individuals who organized this year will always do it? VPR story will air—Joanna will post to website. Questions need to be asked about the science: Holly can go out on Friday with LCA. Mariana described TNC workbook to help define threats to an ecological area. Can demonstrate workbook at future meeting. Bob: bulrush mats uprooted. Roel: possibly due to too high water level. Roel: setting up transects and taking photos at marked points over the years would be great. Possibly good for Masters student.

- Town Plan Update: Bob, Roel, Joanna, Fritz, attended Planning Commission meeting where the topic was the Conservation Commission submission (Natural Resources section of the Plan). Executive summary needs to be 1 page, policies and strategies. 8 policies and 32 strategies. None superfluous, P&S fine-tuned, what CCC submitted had Jim D's comments in-

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corporated. Jim Donovan will write Executive Summary, it will include “key stressors” in bullet form. Policies and strategies were accepted. Bob thinks they need fine-tuning—tried to work with existing ones, but now there can be some editing. All the content will be in the appendices. Bob thinks the appendices need to be directly tied to a strategy. All policies and strategies should be supported by something in the appendices. The structure of the plan is now clear. Roel: now the PC will put our submission in to their format. Bob: but we need to follow-up with editing because the PC will not be fine-tuning it. Appendices are OK to be on-line. All the strategies were gone over & approved by the PC. Joanna: they liked what we had. Sharon, the consultant, said there might be things that are missing—Bob asked if she would read it again.

- Planning Commission - PC meeting coming up: McGinnis, 4685 Mt Philo: Philo, Pease Mtn corridor. site visit at 6pm on Thursday Bob to site visit, Gary to attend meeting & will officially follow this application. Some discussion about development review process and CCC role.

- CCC Transition: Bob met with Joanna and Roel, discussed ideas about co-chair, some of the logistics of chairmanship. Joanna: some things we want to work on: maps, development review process. Roel: thinking of dedicating some of budget to increasing information in habitat map but Dean says there is already money for that... money to work with CCRPC. Could have a knowledge base where you could check regulations that apply to a development project. Bob: we could be more proactive about contacting landowners before they go to the Planning Commission. Roel: we need to have knowledge base and that needs to be transferrable to other people. We need a few sessions to try out the map, invite Pam Brangan. John: it would be great to have a brochure to be able to hand out to people to say here are the things you need to consider for development projects. Joanna: our work plan: dev review, maps, town plan, wetland. In August: go over strategies from Town Plan, figure out how to get the work done.
- Mariana (new Secretary) to get tutorial from Bob about how to post minutes to CCC website.

Nature Notes

John: wrens with babies, Joanna: treefrog in watering can, Gary: phoebe dropping chick poop on house, Holly: black crowned night herons, wrens eating, wood ducks, huge bobcat on Converse Bay Rd, Roel: lots of snails = lots of snakes, toads, Bob: watersnake, eagles at Town Farm Bay, Mariana: friendly song sparrow