

Draft Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2014

In attendance: Roel Boumans, Fritz Tegatz, Mel Huff, Joanna Cummings, Howard Verman, Bob Hyams

Guests: Derk Bergquist, Laura Billingsley

I. Introductions of Derk Bergquist to the commission; Derk is interested in joining the CCC.

II. Laura Billingsley:

- a) Involved in community-based learning projects at CVU.
- b) During the last meeting of the CCC, the commissioners gave Laura a list of projects that her students could work on including frogbit and habitat mapping.
- c) Forty eight students will pick from project choices (10 to 12th grade).
- d) Laura needs to figure out logistics for student travel to project sites. There will be approximately 10 students working on each project. The overall goal is to learn how to conserve natural resources.
- e) On September 19 Laura is meeting with Keith Thompson to kick off the projects.
- f) She is planning a field trip to look at areas they will be working on.
- g) Frogbit project – study invasive species, wetland ecosystems.
 - a. Experimental learning
 - b. Three months
 - c. Create a herbarium by collecting and drying plants, locate them on a map.
 - d. Could be a long-term project. How could this help the town?
 - e. They can submit findings to iNaturalist.
- h) Howard – likes the idea of students involved in iNaturalist, with ID of species added to the habitat map.
- i) Roel – The habitat map can have a layer of volunteer data and a layer with expert data.
- j) Next steps – Roel will meet with Laura to work out project details. Bob will meet also.
- k) First of November, the students will give 10 minute presentations to 5th graders about their projects.

III. Meeting minute taking – Joanna cannot run the meetings and take minutes at the same time any longer. Is there another commissioner willing to do this? Derk Bergquist said he is willing to take minutes.

IV. Frogbit project

- a) Harvest season is over the third week of August.
- b) Field hours total 308, down a little compared with other years. Tons removed =3; 9. Tons removed last year.
- c) Frogbit is not thriving this year and may be due to plant size smaller.
- d) We don't know much about frogbit so it is hard to predict how it will react under different conditions. Lower harvest could be from the previous years of harvesting having an effect.
- e) Loosestrife, flowering rush and wild rice observed.
- f) Want to rename the project because frogbit may not be the main concern in the future. Water chestnut, yellow flag iris, loosestrife problems as well.

- g) Howard has observed that frogbit is spreading around the lake, in Mallets Bay, Walker Bay, Lewis Creek. How are these infestations behaving?
- h) Now that the season is over, what is next? Marty and Bob have to report to town. Can the CHIC oversee the frogbit project? Will it be recognized as maintenance by the town? And how can we make the town dedicate a fund to do this? We should meet with the LCA and CHIC.
- i) Can we inquire about the conservation fund to be used for frogbit control in the wetland?

V. iNaturalist and Charlotte Habitat Map

- a) How to add information to the habitat map through iNaturalist.
- b) First log into iNaturalist (create an account if new at it)
- c) Search for Charlotte Conservation map.
- d) We can put observations with coordinates on the map.
- e) Conservation commissions should join iNaturalist and begin uploading observations.

VI. Nature Notes

- a) Howard's wife saw a bobwhite!
- b) Bob observed a mink.
- c) Roel saw several brown bats. They seem to be making a comeback. Mount Phil has set up bat boxes.
- d) Howard and Derk observed monarch butterflies.
- e) Roel has been seeing more garden snakes this year. There are a lot of snails, maybe frogs are eating the snails and snakes are eating the frogs.
- f) Seen in the wetland – osprey and bald eagle.