

**Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2020
Zoom!
7:00pm**

**Members in attendance:
Linda Radimer, Roel Boumans, Kevin Burget, Mel Huff
Derk Berquist, Mary Van Vleck, and Susan Blood.**

7:00 - First meeting in COVID time!

Cameras - it seems most members are not being very diligent about using theirs.

Mary, who has 2 CCC cameras, would like to put one by the underpass but she's worried about someone stealing it. Mel knows someone who can put one up securely.

Let's put numbers on the cards - the same number as the camera.

It might be useful to coordinate dates when we put the cameras out. So then we can have a snapshot of what is happening here in Charlotte. Maybe we can upload the pictures one week before the meeting. Kevin is willing to download cards for us since not everyone has card readers.

Should we keep pictures that have no wildlife in them at all? Waving grasses are not that interesting! Some people might see wildlife and some people might not. But we concluded that lots of photos of waving grass are not necessary to keep.

Roel has put out cameras at Tamarack Road and gotten deer and foxes. He also put out 2 cameras - knee-high and shoulder high, and the knee-high one got all kinds of wildlife while the shoulder height one did not.

We all need to try out the cameras to learn what works. Roel put all his pictures on the google drive.

Linda has seen lots of animals but not with our cameras. Bear, fox kits etc.!

People can plug their cameras into their computers to download photos. Or Kevin is willing to get cards from an envelope at Town Hall.

Let's have an in-between meeting about how to use Google Drive with Roel. (Unfortunately, this did not happen.)

Forestry Program and Grant Idea by Roel:

Forestry Grant - Roel had just gone to the Vermont Forest Roundtable, but this was 6 months ago. Roel couldn't include his forest in his current use program. So he would like to be able to leave his forest as-is for wildlife purposes, and he feels he should be rewarded in terms of his taxes for leaving the forest as is and not cutting down. Current use for forests is all about logging. But just not using your forest is a benefit to wildlife and should be rewarded.

Possible that a group of landowners could come together - you need 25 acres of forest to get a tax abatement. We could work with the Family Forest group.

What constitutes a forest, and how do you put a value on forests. For instance, how many trees do you need to make a forest? We could consider the NLDC categories of forests.

Sustainable Forest Alliance

We could propose a current use status for conservation values.

Housekeeping:

Should we keep our SmugMug account? All our documentation is on our google drive. We all need the password for the google drive. Smugmug is good if we want to be able to have a public-facing website with our photos. Kevin needs to be reimbursed for 2 years of SmugMug.

Conservation Currents - we are behind in these. But thankfully, others have been writing conservation related articles!

We need to start getting to the Planning Commission meetings regularly.

Daniel Morgan is the new zoning person.

We have a plaque that we can put a name of someone who supports conservation in Charlotte. Just something to remember!

Next meeting:

Let's zoom again next time - 4th Tuesday of the month - Sept 22nd (It ended up being the 29th!)

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded.