

Tunbridge Conservation Commission - August 16, 2021 - library
Meeting Minutes - Approved

Members Present: Betsy Gaiser, Eliza Minnucci, Ellen Hosford, Maureen McCullough, Neil Fitzgerald, Michael Sacca

Public Present: Betty Brown, Brenda Field

Called to order at 5:00pm.

June Meeting Minutes Approved

July Meeting Minutes Amended and Approved

Wildlife Update

- coyote crossing on 110 corridor, healthy, large, multiple sightings
- cedar waxwing nest building on Monarch Hill
- indigo bunting - variable songs
- blue heron
- bear on East Randolph road

Tunbridge Blooms Update

No recent action, but project continues!

Trails Committee Representation

Discussion regarding our representative to Tunbridge Trails Committee

- Betsy offers to step down

Request for discussion about our Commission platform

- What is our representative to represent?

Reading of George White's letter to the Trails Committee

available on the town website on the Trails Committee page [here](#)

Reading of excerpt of Paul Gilles "The Law of the Trees" and the Vermont Commission of Forests, Parks and Recreation:

"The public right of way is an easement that allows the public to walk and ride across private property. Highways are the most obvious public rights of way, but the term also includes public trails...the public's interests include safe travel, provisions of utilities, shade and beauty, calming of traffic, and neighborhood preservation." - Paul Gilles "The Law of the Trees" and the Vermont Commission of Forests, Parks and Recreation

Discussion of opportunities for compromise

Creation of draft document tracking our recommendations to the Trails Committee

Discussion about who would be a best representative of our Commission

- Comment from public inquiring about Michael's approach to possibly serving on Trails committee
- Comment from public in support of Betsy Gaiser

EM - Motion that Betsy Gaiser continues as Trails Committee Representative from the Conservation Commission

MM - Second

Discussion - Our commission understands that we are not all of the same mind, but that Betsy will do her best to represent our Commission, and we will provide guidance to her at each of our meetings.

Motion approved unanimously

Belknap Brook Farm Open House

Well-attended.

Trail opportunities.

Further discussion and work ahead on this project.

Protecting Farmland

Reading of response letter from ECFiber regarding effects on local farmland.

(offered to committee by Brenda Field)

Senator Mark McDonald is working on advocating for reimbursement.

Citizens may write to encourage Mark McDonald's work on this issue

Conservation Commission Membership

Membership timelines to be reviewed at next meeting.

Adjourned 7:55

Next Meeting: September 20, 2021