

Tunbridge Conservation Commission - January 17, 2022 - by Zoom
Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Ellen Hosford, Maureen McCoullough, Eliza Minnucci, Michael Sacca, Betsy Gaiser

Members Absent: Neil Fitzgerald

Public Present: Jory Innes, Scott Beavers, Susan Salster

Called to order at 6:05pm.

Review of Minutes

Discussion and Amendment to December minutes:

- Add Federal COVID money brought to our attention
- Omit line about "Inconclusive..." about trails committee participation

Amended and Approved

Membership

Welcome to Visiting Prospective Members

- Jory Innes and Scott Beavers
- Bryon Keiser's name also suggested as potential commission member

Resignation of Neil Fitzgerald from Commission

- will continue to support Bird House Project

NEXT MEETING: need to elect a treasurer

Ellen reports that TCC has paid 2022 membership dues to the Alliance of Vermont Conservation Commissions.

Projects

Bird Houses

- Blue Bird Houses, kits and assembled houses
 - Workshop afternoon to assemble houses together

1. Assembled Blue Bird House to library

Action Item: Maureen to assemble one or two houses to be display at the library, and let Eliza know when they are there.

2. Advertised and Order Forms Disseminated

- a. digital order form
- b. in-person order form in the library
- c. \$20 assembled, \$15 kits
- d. Birdhouses available on or before March 15

Action Item: Eliza to advertise and develop logistics for ordering

3. Information Sheet to go along with

Action Item: Michael to create information sheet

4.
 - Further Ideas
 - Kestrel Houses (put 10-100 feet), Bat Houses

COViD ARPA Money

Money needs to be spent on projects related to pandemic.

ARPA representative will be attending and presenting at a future Selectboard Meeting

Brainstorm:

- Outdoor recreation(trails, trail access, trail publicity might be a good fit for response to pandemic.
- Town Conservation Fund seed money
- 1. Ellen to attend Selectboard Meeting when ARPA representative presents (check with Mariah Cilley)
 - MS offered to also attend Selectboard Meetings for ARPA discussions

ACTION ITEM: Ellen to stay apprised of schedule in communication with Mariah

2. TCC Members to further develop ideas

Officer Election

Intention to elect officers at our March meeting following Town Meeting. With Town Meeting postponed, this leaves a decision to be made to stick with March meeting or to elect at our meeting following town meeting.

MM: Motion to hold elections for Conservation Commission Officers immediately following Town Meeting in 2022, whenever it is held.

EM: Seconded

Motion Passes 4-1

Community Events

Hand-Feeding Bird Challenge

- Began January 17, will run through February 28th.

Town Forest Naming Contest

ACTION ITEM: Eliza to contact Brenda about collaboration with

Coverts Walk

- April Walk in Saturday from 9-12 (perhaps late April)

Invasive Species discussion on hold until February meeting

MS suggests planning a series of walks (bird and others) for the 2022 season

Collaborations Update

Trails Committee (BG) - A preview walk was done of suggested reroute of one trail, committee is waiting for report back from the folks who did the preview.

Four Towns Conservation Commissions Chairs Meeting (EH / MS)

Royalton, Strafford, Sharon, Tunbridge brought together to explore collaboration opportunities.
Four Commission Chairs may meet on quarterly basis

- Inventories of forest connectivity
- Speaker series for four towns - Invasives,
- Emerald Ash Borer Plans
 - Royalton has advisory committee
 - Strafford had country forester do a survey of ash trees
 - Randolph, Northfield have plans

Other Business

Introductions by visiting prospective members

Jory Innes - South Tunbridge

involved in outdoors recreation activities

contributing member of other Tunbridge boards

library volunteer

interested in contributing writing skills, and to trail/river clean-ups, among other things

interested in improving, addressing and exposing residents to resources we have in town

interested in connecting with public

Scott Beavers - South Tunbridge

involved in recreating and working outdoors

bring educational awareness of what is out there, what is going on and what can be done

contributed to a variety of outdoor related boards

bring energy, knowledge of projects we work on

Wildlife Updates

MS: Christmas Bird Count in December: Robin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hooded Mergansers at the river at the fairgrounds

Cedar Waxwings flock

Juvenile Eagle (Monarch Hill)

Goshawk (Monarch Hill)

EH: Cardinal Pair at birdfeeder

SB: Moose Tracks

JL: Six deer in a line!

Next Meeting: Monday, February 21, 6pm at the Library and by Zoom

Adjourned: 7:45

