

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission  
Meeting December 10, 2019  
Approved

Members present: Craig Heindel- Chair, Dennis Armell, Amy Dohner, Jen Cirillo, and Karen Pettersen

Craig opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The November 12, 2019 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as presented.

A. Emerald Ash Borer

1. Amy has reached out to all the inventory groups and most of the ash trees inventory work has been done. Roads yet to be inventoried are Long Point Road east, Stage Road, Ashley Road, Robinson Road, Greenbush Road and Town Line Road.
2. Once all the inventory work is complete Craig will contact Elise to have the information formatted to give to John Bull and the Selectboard.
3. We will wait until John and the Selectboard have reviewed the information before a management is developed.

B. Husk hunting cabin

1. Craig attended the ZBA meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
2. At that meeting Andy Husk explained that he wants to access their property, which is surrounded by VF&W land on a small peninsula at the intersection of Goose Creek and Little Otter Creek, using part of the Bahrenburg driveway, a class 4 road, off Little Chicago Road, and then continue across State Fish and Wildlife property to the Husk property. Andy is proposing to swap an existing r-o-w that runs across the F&W land for a new r-o-w, which would be a shorter route across the F&W land.
3. Craig said we would defer to Jens Hawkins-Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist with VF&W, and Zappata Courage, District Wetland Ecologist with VDEC, due to the sensitive nature of the property.
4. Andy said that the cabin would be located on a small rise on the lot, and no trees would be cut, because the proposed cabin will be small.

C. Town Forest

1. Craig sent maps to Gloria, Town Clerk, showing how to access the Town Forest, and asked Betsey Etchells to post it on the Conservation Commission page of the Town's website. Craig will send the maps to Schultz/Aldrichs.
2. Last weekend, Craig and Judy walked into the Town Forest to review the snow machine clubs' trail across the southeast corner of the Town Forest. He reported finding no trash and the signs marking the entrance into the Town Forest undamaged. He did note that there are many fallen trees across the old roads in the Forest, and saw many animal tracks.

D. Land Use Regulation Update Committee

1. Karen distributed Jean Richardson's excerpts from the previous Town Plan and Brandy Saxton's recommended wording for the proposed Land Use Regulations regarding the Town's natural resources. Craig suggested that Karen blend the wording of the two and email it to the committee before the next meeting.
2. Amy suggested that the FCC recommend to the LURUC that a project review checklist be used in the permit application process.
3. A review of the topics in the proposed brochure might be of assistance in developing the project review checklist.

E. VT Master Naturalist Program

1. Amy sent out a request to FCC members for contacts that could be considered partners with the FCC in a project with the VT Master Naturalist Program. A possible March meeting would be held with interested partners.

F. Future Workshops/Field Trips

1. Sue Morse – Jan 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-4:00. A committee member has to meet Sue at noon at the Town Hall to bring her to the field trip meeting place. The number of participants will be limited to 20 people including any FCC members. Amy will send out a sign up notice to those people who signed up for last year's canceled walk. If our limit isn't full then invite the Selectboard, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment members.
2. Bear workshop –Forrest Hammond, VTF&W, can conduct a workshop on April 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday from 7 to 8:30 pm. Jen will fill out a rental form for the upstairs room and send it to Town Clerk.
3. Bat Presentation- Alyssa Bennett will present the results the bat monitoring in the Champlain Valley and the health status of the bat population. The presentation will be on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. at the Ferrisburgh Town Center. We will discuss the publicity at our next meeting.

G. New Business

1. Annual Report – Jen volunteered to write up the FCC submission for the Town's Annual Report.
2. Other topics we could discuss in the future are: Stewardship, Citizen Science, Education, and Natural Resource Advisory role to Town Boards.
3. Craig attended the last ZBA meeting and he briefly commented on 5 applications that were located within the Shoreland and/or Conservation districts. He thinks we should consider having more of a presence at the ZBA meetings in the future. Craig will contact Bonnie regarding sending us information of future zoning applications.
4. The EAB grant proposal from the Urban and Community Forestry organization isn't applicable to us at this time.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next scheduled for January 14, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Petterson, Secretary