

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting April 12, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present: Craig Heindel, Chair, Jen Cirillo, Don Dewees, Amy Dohner, and Karen Pettersen

Absent: Barry Estabrook, Matthew Gorton and Tyler Steff

1. Craig opened the Zoom meeting at 7:08 p.m.
2. **Meeting Minutes** of March 8th, 2022 were moved to be accepted as amended.
3. **Barry Estabrook** was appointed to be a member of the Conservation Commission by the Selectboard. His term expires on March, 2025.
4. **ZBA Hearings:** The applicants were VT Livestock, Hinsdale, Huber, Kerr/McCain, Boggs, Sullivan and Bern. Karen attended the 4/6/22 hearings and reported what conservation issues were discussed. The FCC members discussed that many of the projects are located within critical Bat Habitat and the need to remind the applicants of this issue. Craig received a telephone call from Gunner McCain, Engineer regarding the FCC request for a 25 foot wide no cut wildlife corridor. Gunner wanted a 15 foot setback in the vicinity of the house and Craig had told him that that would be okay. Kerr had explained at the hearing that they will need to cut down 2 trees within the corridor, which will be replaced with additional plants. Craig suggested the FCC reports on each of the applications and for future reports need to be stored for future reference, potentially on the website.
5. **Cornerstone Project**– Craig had nothing to report. Amy, who is also a member of the Trails Committee, wanted to know how handle comments on issues brought up by the Trails Committee with comments raised by the FCC. We agreed that comments will be issued separately.
6. **Markowski Subdivision**- Craig had nothing to report.
7. **Pierce Lane Subdivision** – Matt emailed the FCC his report on the possibility of vernal pools on the land within and near the proposed subdivision. This project is at the Sketch Plan stage. *Craig will write a memo to the Planning Commission and include Matt's report, map and photos.* The hearing will be held on April 20th, 2022.
8. **Hawkins and DeVos Properties** – VT Fish and Wildlife is interested in acquiring portions of both properties. The FCC supports both acquisitions. There is no follow-up.
9. **Abenaki Presentation** – The zoom presentation was recorded and *Tyler was asked to add it to the FCC website.* Judy Dow and Israel Evarts will meet to review possible sites for the site visit portion of Judy's Presentation, which will be held in late May. Amy is waiting for the invoice from Judy.
10. **Town Forest Bio-Inventory**- The UVM NR 206 class will hold a Zoom or Teams presentation to the FCC on their findings the afternoon of April 22nd, Friday. Craig would like it recorded, and *he will contact Katie Delaney to make sure we receive a written report.*

11. **Bird Walk with Bridget Butler** – The walk is scheduled for May 7, Sat. from 8 – 11 am. The list of participants is full. If some people cancel Amy will post the event on Front Porch Forum. There is no rain date set, but if rain is forecasted the walk will be canceled.
12. **Association of VT Conservation Commissions-** Amy sent Deb, Town Treasurer, the application of join AVCC. Deb said she will send off the application and check. *Amy will follow up with Deb and AVCC.*
13. **New Business:**
 - Bat Monitoring** –*Amy will coordinate with Alyssa Bennett regarding the summer monitoring, and ask her for guidance on permit applications that include building demolition and tree clearing that may impact bat roosting sites.*
 - Shane Coyne request to connect Robinson Road to Dakin Road-** Craig said the existing trail doesn't go thru the Town Forest, and that the trail maybe on private property.
 - MCVRCP-** Jen reported the grant was approved to train people to use the ebird app for conservation purposes.
14. **Meeting adjourns** – at 8:40.
15. **Next Meeting** – May 10, 2022

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary