

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting April 14, 2020
Approved

Members present: Craig Heindel [Chair], Jen Cirillo, Ron DeBellis, Amy Dohner, Jadziah Hannon Moonstone, Krista Hoffsis and Karen Pettersen

Guests: Joe Nelson

Craig opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The March 11, 2020 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as presented.

A. Roadside Ash Inventory

1. Craig sent information regarding the Charlotte's Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness and Management Plan, the Request for Proposal for ash tree removal, and an email from Charlotte's tree warden to the Commission members. The Charlotte RFP was for the removal of 71 trees of 6" diameter and larger, along portions of Greenbush and Ferry Roads. The proposals ranged from \$18,000 –\$ 25,000.
2. Joe reminded us that ash trees take longer than in 2 years to die.
3. Craig suggested setting up a meeting with John Bull this summer.
4. Joe thinks there are maybe 20 ash trees that should be saved due to aesthetics. He, also, reminded us that the emerald ash borer fly in late April and into May.
5. Jen and Joe liked the Charlotte EAB Management Plan format.
6. Karen reported that Long Point Corporation has removed all, but 2 large, ash trees along Bay Road right-of-way within their property, and asked how do we removed those trees on the State's ash tree inventory website. Craig said to contact Joanne Garton.

B. FCC Brochure: We discussed edits as follows:

1. Panel 5 – Other Ways of Protecting... Jen said the phrase "Leave No Trace" isn't the newest way to express cleaning up after oneself. Jadziah not sure what phrase the State uses.
2. Panel 6 –
Under **General**: add VTANR before BioFinder. Add VT Natural Resources Atlas and its link.
Under **Forests**: add bullets or make the topics bold to make it easier to read.
Ron said the County Forester has to be contacted to participate in the Current Use Program. Add links for the County Forester and the Current Use Program.
Jen will research who to contact and the link for information on Forest Fragmentation.
Craig said to remove "Game of Logging".
Under **Water**: Craig said to add Lewis Creek Association and the VT Shoreland Protection Program with their links.
Craig said to lump **Birds and Pollinators** and **Hunting and Fishing** under a new heading: **Wildlife**. Add Keeping Track, Audubon Addison County and ANR Conservation Camp, and all with their links.
3. Panel 3 – Ways to Protect... Craig suggested instead of the long sentences use bullets.

4. Panel 4 – The general consensus is that Panel 4 and 6 are very similar and Panel 4 could be eliminated.
5. With that done there will be room to add another photograph, preferably a landscape scene. Add credits to the photographs: Bobcat by Merrie Perron and Woodpecker by Jadziah Hannon Moonstone.

C. VT Master Naturalist Program

1. Krista created a draft invitation letter for an initial meeting, which she will email to the FCC members to review.
2. The VT Master Naturalist Program initial meeting may have to be postponed until the fall due to the coronavirus.

D. Land Use Regulation Update Committee

1. Karen explained that the Zoning Rewrite subcommittee worked on the first half of Article V General Bylaws during the last meeting. Karen emailed the edited Soil Erosion Section to the members recently, and will email the Stormwater Management Section to members before the next meeting.

E. Bears in Vermont Presentation

1. This presentation will have to be postponed until the fall due to the coronavirus.

F. Future workshops

1. Aquatic invasive animals workshop should probably be held in the spring.
2. We may be able to have some presentations next winter.

G. New Business

1. Karen reminded everyone that Lewis Creek Association received an Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and is looking for volunteers to be boat launch stewards and help with aquatic invasive plant species surveying along Lewis Creek, Bristol Pond and Monkton Pond. Jadziah said that Lake Champlain Basin Program has postponed all grant activities.
2. Karen asked why the Town doesn't use GOTO MEETING instead of ZOOM, considering the problems ZOOM has been having with security. It's probably too expensive was an answer.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be May 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary