

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission Meeting

June 13, 2023

Minutes Approved

Members present: Craig Heindel, Don Dewees, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Karen Pettersen, Matt Gorton.

Members absent: Barry Estabrook, Joe Nelson.

Guests: None.

1. Craig opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. The May 9, 2023 meeting minutes were moved to be accepted with minor amendments.
3. Town Forest:
 - a. Craig noted that on the fieldtrip on June 25 with the Vermont Master Naturalist group, we concluded that the bench that we had seen near the northwest corner of the property was not a glacial lake feature, but rather was a couple of low folded bedrock ridges veneered with till and talus.
 - b. Potential site visit by Bob Zaino, state ecologist: Craig has not heard anything from Bob or Kate Kruesi about when or if this might happen. Matt suggested also contacting Mark Ferguson at ANR.
 - c. Management Plan update: We're continuing to gather information, and hoping to engage another UVM NR206 project group in the fall.
 - d. Boundary walk date: Jen will re-circulate a date survey to see if we can find a possible date this summer, such as July 22, 23, 29, 30, Aug. 26, 27.
 - e. Formal name of town forest "Rowland T. Robinson Municipal Forest": we confirmed that we will use that full name when possible, and that the shortcut of "town forest" is OK where space is limited. Jen and Amy offered to check our webpage, to see where the full name could be inserted.

- f. Vernal pools: Matt reported that he conducted the formal vernal pool survey in the spring, and found three. He will send his field forms and latitude coordinates for them, and he'll load the info onto ANR's Vernal Pool Atlas.
- g. Amphibian diseases: Matt noted that VTANR and the VT Center for Ecostudies is monitoring all over the state for amphibian diseases. He will ask these organizations if we can assist.

- 4. UVM NR 206 possible projects: We brainstormed these ideas:
 - a. Act 171 analysis [Don offered to dig into some details];
 - b. Are there Species of Greatest Concern [ANR listing] in the town forest, or habitat amenable to them;
 - c. Town beach management plan;
 - d. Trails in western half of Kingsland Bay State Park [work with VT Forests & Parks agency].

Don agreed to contact Laura Edling, to find out details of the "pitch day", etc.

- 5. Open Space Agreement procedures / protocols of Planning Commission: We understand that the SB reviewed and approved the modified OSA procedure. Craig will circulate a copy of the final version, once he receives it from the ZA.
- 6. Mead/Richardson PUD and OSA: Craig noted that the OSA has been finalized. The Planning Commission review process is waiting for the state WW permit, and then the application will go to the ZBA for Conditional Use review.
- 7. Shade Tree Preservation Plan: It's our understanding that Joe is working on this [he could not attend this meeting].
- 8. Bat Monitoring: Amy reported that she is waiting for details from Alyssa Bennett, Small Mammal Biologist at VTDEC. Tasks:

- a. Ruddy Mill: Amy will contact Rae Donovan, to see if they will allow counting again this year.
 - b. Rokeby: we assume that Dean Leary is coordinating there.
 - c. Kingsland Bay SP: Karen, Don and Jen are on the list there; dates set.
 - d. Janice Perry's house: we will try to assemble 3 or 4 people to join Janice; Schwaneflugels counted there last year. Possible: July 13, 19, 25, 27.
9. Bird Walk with Bridget Butler: We reviewed possible dates, decided to see if Sept. 9 or 30, in the morning, would work. Amy will contact her about date and cost.
 10. Vacancy on the CC: Jen will ask if Tyler wants to return, and she'll also ask Sheila Schwaneflugel.
 11. Climate Change presentation: Desired date is Sept. 22, 7:00 pm, with Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, state climatologist. Jen will confirm date with her, and then confirm the availability of the upstairs hall at the Town Center, and fill out the use form. We understand that Lesley-Ann will not charge for her presentation.
 12. Zoning or Planning applications? None to discuss.
 13. New Business:
 - a. Spring Amphibian Migration: Matt agreed to do a public presentation next spring.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Craig Heindel.