

FERRISBURGH CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2021

Approved Minutes

Members present: Craig Heindel, Krista Hoffsis, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner

Members not present: Karen Pettersen, Ron DeBellis, Jadziah DeRosia

Visitors present: Kristen Shamis, Andrew Shamis, Tyler Steff

Craig opened the zoom meeting at 7:05pm.

The March 9, 2021 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as presented.

1. Introductions

- a. Commission members introduced themselves to visitors.
- b. Tyler Steff, a Ferrisburgh resident, is interested in joining the commission and introduced himself. His background is in environmental illustration, and he has a personal interest in conservation.

2. Land Use Regulations

- a. Craig proposed we all review the several sections of the new regs that pertain to natural resources and conservation, before the next meeting, so we can discuss and offer suggestions to the zoning administrator, ZBA and Planning Commission about implementing those sections. Craig will send commission members the relevant sections of the land use regulations by email.

3. Conservation Commission Brochure

- a. The brochure is done! Amy dropped off the brochures and display box at the Town Offices last week. Extras are stored in the CC's file cabinet in the corner of the main meeting room; we received 350 copies from the printer. Amy suggested we ask town staff if they'd be willing to mail it out to new town residents, or include it in other mailings as appropriate. Amy will stop by the town office to formally introduce the brochure to town employees, and ask them about adding the topic of the brochure to a Select Board meeting agenda -- one of us could attend, to explain about the brochure.
- b. Jen suggested we could ask if brochures could be made available at the elementary school bulletin board. Amy will ask Judy Elson, sixth grade teacher.

4. Salmon Fisheries Presentation follow-up

- a. There were about 28 participants
- b. Jen will ask Jadziah to check in with Matt, the speaker, to be sure we don't need to do any more follow-up.
- c. Jen will send Krista the zoom recording to post on the town website.

5. Shamis, 588 Arnold Bay Road, Zoning Application

- a. Andrew and Kristen Shamis attended the meeting to observe discussion and participate.

- b. Craig checked with Norm Smith, the zoning board chair, to see whether they had made a decision. Norm said that no decision has been made yet.
- c. No further discussion.

6. Bat Monitoring

- a. Amy heard from Alyssa Bennett (State Bat Biologist) after the last meeting. Amy will start reaching out to volunteers from past years to see if they're interested.
- b. Alyssa passed along names of contacts at the Rokeby Museum, so we can coordinate with them about counting at that site. The CC will organize the counting at the Kingsland Bay State Park site. Amy will ask Alyssa about the status of the Ruddy Mill site, which apparently was recently sold [or sale is pending].
- c. The counts will presumably occur four times in July, like in previous years. Amy found about a dozen clicker-counters, so we're all set there. She will get data-recording sheets from Alyssa.

7. Financial Report

- a. Amy reported that we got the invoice for printing the brochures from Futura for \$530 (design and printing), plus \$26.51 for the brochure holder and label maker.
- b. We have a balance of \$485 at present. Our account will increase by \$550 beginning on July 1, 2021 due to the line item for the CC in the town budget for fiscal year 2022.

8. Future workshops

- a. Jen is still waiting for a quote and details of a presentation topic from Judy Dow for a potential workshop on Abenaki history and stewardship in the Champlain Valley. Jen asked Judy if she was interested in partnering with the Ferrisburgh Historical Society. Once we get an outline from Judy regarding the details of her presentation, we can send to Ferrisburgh Historical Society to see if they would like to be listed as a co-sponsor [even if they are unable to share in covering Judy's cost].. Judy is very busy right now, so we expect that this presentation might be scheduled for the Fall.
- b. Aquatic Invasive species has come up several times. Krista will ask Meg Modley [Lake Champlain Basin Program] if she is willing to present a program this summer. This could be virtual, or potentially be an in-person program, held outside somewhere like Kingsland Bay, with details adjusted to meet covid-19 protocols. We would target some date in July or August when seasonal lakeshore owners are here, and we would advertise to communities with lakeshore properties beyond Ferrisburgh.
- c. Enhancing wildlife habitat and wetlands on your property? Ethan Tapper (Chittenden County Forester) or David Brynn (Vermont Family Forests) may be good presenters.

9. New Business

- a. Alyssa Bennett (State Bat Biologist) is giving a presentation in Charlotte that was announced on FPF.
- b. Mid-Champlain Valley Regional Conservation Partnership is a fairly new organization, whose coordinator recently reached out to FCC to see if we'd want to partner, along with representatives from nine other nearby towns. Laura Farrell is the coordinator. One of

their first projects is to provide educational opportunities and direct action related to pollinators. They will be distributing seed-starting kits this spring. Judy Elson [sixth-grade teacher at FCS] will distribute to Ferrisburgh families through the elementary school. Jen will attend their next meeting.

- c. Alicia Daniel sent an email to let us know she created a video of the winter workshop she gave in Ferrisburgh in 2020, "Tale of Two Cedars", that we can share out. Krista will post a link on the town website.
- d. Craig wondered if we need to do any maintenance in the town forest, such as checking boundary signs, checking for invasive species, etc.. The commission could offer again to help with trail maintenance on the town right-of-way trail leading to the town forest that crosses the Aldrich-Schultz property from Robinson Rd.. Amy suggested we check the trail and the interior of the town forest, to assess the impact of heavier use that she has been hearing about. At our May meeting, we will schedule a date to do a site visit and possible trailwork to the town forest.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 8:06pm

The next meeting is May 11, 2021 on zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Hoffsis