

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting October 11, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present: Jen Cirillo, Acting Chair, Amy Dohner (by Zoom), Don Dewees, Barry Estabrook, Matthew Gorton, Joe Nelson, Karen Pettersen, Tyler Steff (by Zoom)
Absent: Craig Heindel

1. Jen opened the Zoom meeting at 7:03 p.m.
2. The June 14, 2022 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as amended, and the August 8, 2022 meeting notes were moved to be accepted.
3. **Ferrisburgh Day Town Forest Hike**- Ten people had signed up for the hike, however, only 3 townspeople participated probably due to the rain forecast and the timing (Sunday morning). Jen and Craig led on the hike. Jen saw a partridge and a deer carcass.
4. **NR 206 Class summer project** – The students and Jacob Crawford presented their findings on the bird diversity in the Town Forest to the Town on August 10th. *Don asked that Tyler add this recording to the Town's website.* The project timing was short. No written report, but students gave the slides of the presentation to the FCC.
5. **Ebird Training**- Bridget Butler led the training for representatives from Towns in the Mid Champlain Valley Regional Conservation Partnership. Jen will hold a training for the Ferrisburgh K-5 students potentially in 6 weeks. Barry, Joe and Amy asked to be included or possibly Jen could hold a training session before one of the FCC meetings.
6. **NR 206 Class Fall Project** – A study of the Black Ash trees in the clay plain forest within the Town Forest was accepted as a Fall Project. Joe and Don met separately with 7 students indoors and in the field to review expectations, plot design and for Emerald Ash Borer identification training. The plots will be permanent. Don requested that the students coordinate with other natural resource groups working on issues including Emerald Ash Borer.
7. **Town Forest trail and vernal pool** – Four different groups worked on relocated the steep access trail section leading to the Town Forest. Don suggested yearly trail maintenance. *Amy will invite members of the Town Trail Committee to our next meeting.* Matt suggested a potential vernal pool might not exist year around.
8. **Planning Commission applications**
 - a. Pierce Lane- The PUD application has expired. The applicant will have to apply for Sketch Plan. Matt Montgomery, consulting permit specialist, looked for vernal pool on the property, and didn't think there were any. Matt Gorton thought there weren't any endangered species.
 - b. Champlain Valley Grain Center + Sweets Bakery – Jen couldn't find any recent information.
9. **Zoning Board of Adjustment applications**
 - a. McElwain – There maybe a wetlands issue.

- b. Allen – Unknown natural resources issues.
- c. Mann – Unknown natural resources issues.
- d. Dingman – The State issued a Lakeshore Permit.
Jen will follow up on these application with Craig.

- 10. **Bat Monitoring-** Alyssa Bennett, VT small animal biologist, offered to give a presentation in March, and is looking for more data sheets from the bat monitoring this past summer.
- 11. **Trails Committee** - We can discuss possible collaboration if they come to our next meeting.
- 12. **Abenaki Field Visit** - Jen will follow up with Judy Dow and Israel Evarts.
- 13. **LCA Water Quality presentation** – Matt will talk with Kate about the timing.
- 14. **New Business** – A recent newsletter from the VT Land Trust mentioned that they are gathering information on EAB research, and the Land Trust may like our data from the NR 206 Fall Project.
- 15. **Meeting adjourns** – at 8:28 pm.
- 16. **Next Meeting** – November 8, 2022

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary