

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting November 8, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present: Craig Heindel, Chair, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Don Dewees, Barry Estabrook, Matt Gorton (via zoom), Joe Nelson, Karen Pettersen, Tyler Steff

Guests: Anne Cohn -Trails Committee, Ken Corey (via Zoom), Abel Fillion (via Zoom)

1. Craig opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.
2. The October 11, 2022 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as amended.
3. **Town Forest and NR 206 Summer and Fall Projects**– Ken and Abel are students in the UVM Master Naturalist Program working with the Director Alicia Daniel on trail networking are interested in the Ferrisburgh Town Forest as their class project. Ken walked the boundary and trails of the Town Forest(TF), and reviewed the existing Town Forest Management Plan. He commented that the trails are in need of maintenance. Craig explained that the FCC and the Town Trails Committee are just starting to discuss these trails and, additionally, the FCC is planning on revising the Town Forest Management Plan with the input from UVM Natural Resource (NR) students. The present NR 206class is studying the Clay Plain Forest within the Town Forest including input from the Abenaki, and could make a recommendation to continue with more studies within the TF. Other FCC suggestions for future NR 206 classes are an inventory of all vegetation, not just trees, and contacting the Abenaki for their historical perspective.
4. **Trail Committee** – Anne and Amy suggested way finding and a kiosk would help those using the TF trails. The Committee is applying for a grant to determine the interest level of townspeople in developing trails. Rokeby wants to connect their trails to Buckwheat Lane with signage to the TF access trail. Craig explained the FCC philosophy regarding more intensive use of the TF.
5. **Planning Commission applications**
Pierce Lane – Their original application has expired. Vernal pools are an issue.
Champlain Valley Grain+Sweets Bakery - ongoing.
6. **Zoning Board of Adjustment applications**
McElwain – Natural resource issues include riparian buffer and a potential wetland
Allen – No natural resource issues.
Mann –There maybe waste water and water supply, and impervious issues.
Dingman –No natural resource issues. They have approval from Shoreland Protection.
7. **Bat Presentation** – Amy confirmed that Alyssa Bennett, VT F&W small mammal biologist, will give a talk on March 23, 2023 at 6-7:30 at a location in Ferrisburgh TBA.
8. **Ebird training** – Jen has been approved to conduct an after school program for 4th and 5th graders on using Ebird, a computer program.
9. **Abenaki Field Visit** – No additional information.

10. **LCA Water Quality presentation** – No additional information.
11. **Forest Carbon and Wildlife Webinar** – Nobody attended.
12. **New Business** –
 - VT Stormwater Permit has reduced the impervious surface threshold and Steven True is informed.
 - Markowski 3 lot subdivision – has been approved by the Town.
 - Cornerstone – One lot received Sketch Plan Approval, which expires on Dec. 12, 2022.
 - Parker – Tappers Crossing, 4 lot subdivision. No natural resources issues.
 - Karen Pettersen is resigning her position as FCC Secretary effective January 1, 2023.
13. **Meeting adjourns** at 9:15 pm.
14. **Next Meeting** – December 13, 2022

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary