

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission  
Meeting December 13, 2022  
Minutes Approved

Members present: Craig Heindel, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Don Dewees, Barry Estabrook, Joe Nelson, Karen Pettersen.

Members absent: Matt Gorton, Tyler Steff

Guests: Bridgette Bolduc

1. Craig opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.
2. The November 8, 2022 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as amended.
3. Craig inserted this item to introduce Bridgette Bolduc, who described her interest in the Conservation Commission and possibly becoming a member, and described her background. Each of the present members introduced ourselves and described their related backgrounds. Craig explained that the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission membership is full at present [nine members; max allowed by the enabling legislation]. All Conservation Commission meetings are fully open to the public, so she was welcomed to stay and see how the FCC conducts its meetings.
4. **Secretary** – Barry Estabrook was unanimously elected as the new Secretary of the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission.
5. **NR 206 Class Fall 2022 projects; Black Ash; Town Forest Management Plan Update** –Joe and Don attended one group's final presentation on Dec. 6, 2022 about their ash inventory and monitoring plots in the clayplain forest. He received the Power Point of that presentation, *which he will pass onto Tyler, who will add it to our website. Joe will email the group's written report to members.* In addition, Joe received their spreadsheet showing the data collected at each plot, which he recommended should be updated every 3 years.  
A second group from this class presented their studies of black ash in three municipal forests, including Ferrisburgh's. This group worked with Kerry Wood, an Abenaki basket weaver, and Charlotte Cadow, a UVM graduate student. They noted that the Abenaki indicated that they presently have a sufficient supply of Black Ash wood for basket weaving. *Don will try to get a digital file of this presentation. We noted that it would be useful to contact Kerry Wood regarding our update of the town forest management plan..* Craig noted that it would be helpful to know which other towns have black ash management plans.

Bridgette explained how the Adirondack Park manages Ash regarding EAB.

Several ideas regarding the Town Forest Management Plan include: contacting the Addison County Forester, continue submitting proposals for future UVM NR 206 Class projects, have a separate meeting to brainstorm ideas and set goals, and involve the Trails Committee.

6. **Town Forest snowmobile trail**—Joe and Don reported that they recently noticed that Poison parsnip is growing along the snow machine trail. We discussed options, such as physical removal, or herbicide application by us [stump-daubing], or hiring a licensed herbicide applicator; and also whether to ask the snow mobile club to remove the parsnip, or we should do the work. No resolution to these items was reached; left for further discussion and decision.

7. **Schultz-Aldrich barn** [parcel west of Town Forest] – Craig reported that the Planning Commission decided that they don't need a zoning permit for their barn, which they plan on having constructed this winter/spring, because the barn was included in the original permit.

8. **Shortsleeve/Crowley; Franceschetti [Planning Commission updates]**

Craig reported that the Planning Commission decided that the Shortsleeve/Crowley subdivision [Robinson Rd.] didn't need a Zoning Permit because they already have a permit.

Craig reported that the Planning Commission decided that the proposed Franceschetti project at the southeast corner of Rte. 7 and Old Hollow Rd. needs a Zoning Permit. We agreed that there are no conservation issues, so we won't provide any input.

9. **Healey; Dingman [ZBA updates]**

Craig reported that the ZBA reviewed the Healey application [Ferry Rd.] to rebuild a garage including an apartment in it, and approved it.

Craig reported that the ZBA reviewed the Dingman application for a subdivision with an apartment over a private woodworking shop. It is located on the lake shore near Basin Harbor, and they have received a Shoreland Protection Permit. ZBA approved it.

10. **Annual Report**

*Don volunteered to write up the activities the Conservation Commission participated in during 2022.*

11. **Ebird training**

Jen trained 1<sup>st</sup> graders to create a checklist using Ebird, a computer program. She noted that Ferrisburgh Central School now has an account on Ebird to report students' sightings.

12. **VT Invasives (Management) Day**

*Joe will fill out the letter's template and bring it to the next meeting.*

13. **LCA Water Quality presentation**

*Craig will contact Matt to follow up.*

14. **Stormwater Regulations**

No additional information or discussion.

15. **Website**

*Tyler should add each member's expiration dates, update the calendar, and a note regarding the FCC membership is full. Amy had offered to work with Tyler to update and organize our website.*

16. **RFP for Water Quality Projects from ACRPC**

The deadline for applications was Dec. 9, 2022. No further discussion.

17. **New Business**

A. Shade Tree Preservation Plan; Tree Warden – Joe Nelson is the Town’s new Tree Warden. The recent state law says that decisions by town officials about trees in a Town road ROW can be made only if the town has an adopted Shade Tree Preservation Plan. *Joe will contact John Bull, Road Commissioner, to ask if he wants to pursue creating a draft Preservation Plan to recommend to the Selectboard.* Joe and the Conservation Commission could assist. The Charlotte Tree Warden is hosting a discussion about a potential Shade Tree Plan tomorrow.

B. Bat Monitoring Presentation – add the talk by Alyssa Bennett [currently scheduled for March 23, 2023] to our next agenda.

18. **Meeting adjourns** at 9:00 pm.

19. **Next Meeting** – January 10, 2023

Respectively submitted,  
Barry Estabrook, Secretary