

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting May 10, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present: Craig Heindel, Chair, Jen Cirillo, Don Dewees, Amy Dohner, Barry Estabrook, Karen Pettersen (via Zoom), and Tyler Steff

Absent: Matthew Gorton

Guest: Joe Nelson

1. Craig opened the Zoom meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Meeting Minutes** of April 12, 2022 were moved to be accepted as amended.
3. **Joe Nelson** –Joe expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. Joe told us about his background as a Consulting Forester, a Tree Warden, and his assistance to the FCC in our Ash Tree Inventory. Craig explained what issues the Conservation Commission deals with, and the steps Joe should follow to become a member.
4. **ZBA Hearings:** Craig hasn't been able to review any of the new information that was submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for the VT Livestock, Hinsdale, Huber, Kerr/McCain, Boggs, Sullivan and Bern applications. Craig had nothing to report on the Cornerstone Project and the Markowski Subdivision.
5. **ZBA Applications: J. Sullivan, Kimball Dock Rd. and A&M Buskey:** Craig hadn't had time to review the information and asked if any member would review the applications at the Town Offices.
6. **Bird Walk with Bridget Butler** –Fourteen people attended the bird walk along Ft. Cassin Road at the Lower Otter Creek, and at the Little Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area off of Greenbush Road, where we saw an Otter slide into the water. Amy said she had not received the list of birds we saw from Bridget.
7. **Abenaki Presentation** – Jen said the date of the field visit (part 2 of the presentation) will depend on the lake elevation, which has to recede.
8. **Pierce Lane Subdivision** – no new information.
9. **Town Forest Management Plan** – The Zoom presentation by the UVM NR 206 class students was very informative and comprehensive with several recommendations. *Craig will check on getting links to the documents used in the presentation and the presentation itself.* Don contacted Laura Edling, UVM NR 206 supervisor, regarding continuing the student efforts during the summer session, which lasts only 6 weeks. She said we need to make a proposal to the students. We discussed several options listed by priority:
 1. Inventory Black Ash in the clay plain forest, 2. Inventory Rare and Endangered Species including Indiana Bats, 3. Inventory bird habitats.
10. **Bat Monitoring** – Amy contacted Alysa Bennett, and Rokeby regarding the monitoring this summer. Advertising for volunteers could start at the end of May. We should monitor our normal bat roosting sites 4 times after the pups start flying. The Mill in North Ferrisburgh was one of our sites we monitored and is now in new ownership. Amy also asked Alysa for

information regarding the wording we should use to advise applicants interested in developing their property with potential bat roosting sites.

11. **Association of VT Conservation Commissions-** Amy contacted the Association regarding the receipt of our membership check and they haven't responded.
12. **Kimball Brook Farm** – We sent a letter of support to the Selectboard.
13. **LCA Lewis Creek planting** – Craig said that it already happened and we don't know where on the Creek the planting was done.
13. **New Business:**
 - Tree Warden** – Craig suggested that Joe apply for the Ferrisburgh Tree Warden position.
 - Wildlife Sightings** – Jen said there was a bear in her backyard and she reported the sighting to the VT F&W D. The State requested she remove her compost. Amy said she doesn't have time to continue posting the wildlife sightings on our website. Jen volunteered to help Amy set up a Google Form.
 - Trails Committee** – Amy said the committee is reaching out to other Town trails committees and to see if there is any interest in other walking trail locations in Ferrisburgh.
14. **Meeting adjourns** – at 9:20.
15. **Next Meeting** – June 14th, 2022

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary