

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Special Meeting August 8, 2022
Approved Minutes

Members present via Zoom: Craig Heindel, Chair, Don Dewees, Barry Estabrook, Joe Nelson, and Karen Pettersen

Absent: Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, Matthew Gorton, and Tyler Steff

1. Craig opened the Zoom meeting at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Meeting Minutes** of June 14, 2022 will be reviewed at the September meeting.
3. This meeting was scheduled to consider whether to pursue a UVM Environmental Studies project for the 2022 Fall semester, and the projects focus. The ‘pitch’ to the students will be at the end of August or early September, and Prof. Edling requested to be notified of our interest by Aug. 24.
4. We agreed that the FCC would pursue presenting a ‘pitch’ to the students focusing on the ash trees in the Town Forest.
5. **Pitch Elements** – We discussed what could be included in the pitch.
 - a. Inventory of the ash trees listing specific species, and their condition
 - b. Gather current EAB(Emerald Ash Borer) information on proximity of the Town Forest, the progression of the infestation, the projection of the infestation’s arrival, and susceptibility of the Black Ash
 - b. Harvest vs inoculation vs do nothing. We should have further discussion on this subject prior to the pitch.
 - c. Abenaki involvement
 - d. Town input and outreach
 - e. Mention importance of previous involvement with NR206 students to the Town
 - f. The final findings will be a significant part of the Town Forest Management Plan.

We thought the students could handle the inventory, especially with the help of Joe’s knowledge of how to conduct forest inventories, including fixed radius plots. The order of the elements is important during the execution of the project.

6. **Alternate Pitch** – We discussed limiting the pitch only to the clay plain forest, which is within the Town Forest. There could be a conflict between the ecology of clay plain forest where the Black Ash are located and the cultural interests, because historically Black Ash are important in Abenaki basket making. Once the Black Ash trees are infected by the EAB would the trees be useful to the Abenaki?
7. **Abenaki** – Craig encouraged us to provide the opportunity to the Abenaki to give input early on in the project, instead of the FCC waiting to approach the Abenaki later in the project. The Abenaki might have input regarding which trees are best to save. An option that could be considered is the inoculation of the best Black Ash trees, although that would be very expensive.

8. **The Pitch-** Joe will put together the ‘pitch’ for the team to review, then the ‘pitch’ would be emailed to the rest of the FCC for their input. Joe, also, agreed to be the lead contact with Prof. Edling and the NR 206 student group if our project is accepted for this fall, with assistance from Don and Tyler to the degree they are willing and able.
9. **Miscellaneous** - Don has 10 contacts who might give the students information on protocol and management options. Laura also told him the students this Fall would include more Forestry Students than in the past. Craig offered to review the draft meeting notes before he goes away next week.
10. **Meeting adjourns** – at 7:45.
11. **Next Meeting** – September 13, 2022

Respectively submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary