

Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission
Meeting September 17, 2019
Approved

Members present: Craig Heindel, Chair, Dennis Armell, Jen Cirillo, Amy Dohner, John Medenwald, and Karen Pettersen

Guests: Alicia Daniel, Monica Przyperhart, and Joe Nelson

Craig opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The July 16, 2019 meeting notes were moved to be accepted as presented.

A. Vermont Master Naturalist Program

1. Alicia and Monica handed out information explaining the program's curriculum and purpose. The program consists of 10-15 students who are looking to partner with local organizations or municipalities to implement volunteer projects concerning the natural landscape after their training in a number of natural history discipline . Examples include a school program, nature walks such as the viability of a trail in Bristol, wildlife monitoring, inventorying invasive plants and riparian restoration.
2. A town could join with adjacent towns to propose a project to share costs. Typically applications are submitted in late Spring for the following Fall's semester.
3. Craig said we would have to discuss our interest in the program and maybe contact neighboring towns to create a joint effort.

B. Emerald Ash Borer

1. Jen submitted a proposal to UVM School of Environment and Natural Resources for 5-8 students to help the FCC inventory and create a management plan for the EAB future infestation. Karen and Dennis attended the "pitch and greet" session at UVM at the end of August. No students expressed an interest in our project.
2. We discussed doing the inventory of the ash trees along the Town roads and within the municipal property, except the Town Forest, ourselves.
3. To start the process we could ask Elise Schadler to hold a training session for interested volunteers in Town. The training session would last 2-2 1/2 hrs. Volunteers would need an iPad or iPhone to download the program. The timing of the training session would need to be close to the timing of the inventory, which would be conducted this fall.
4. The initial purpose is to help the Town road crew, and to assist the Selectboard with budget issues that will arise with the future invasion.
5. We decided to have the training session the week of October 14-17th, and contact Elise for her choice. The session would be held from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.
6. Craig will put a notice in Front Porch Forum requesting volunteers, and Joe will contact Elise for her preference.

C. Zoning Regulations rewrite

1. Karen reported the committee has been concentrating on the use table and the level of Town review required for each use when an application for development is submitted. Arabella submitted a Timeline of Proposed Expectations. Craig asked Karen when the committee is expecting feedback on Brandy's proposed wording of the Natural Resources section. Karen will research that request.

D. Future Workshops/Field Trips

1. Bat Monitoring – Craig will contact Alyssa Bennett asking her to give a presentation to Ferrisburgh on the analysis of the bat monitoring the FCC has been involved with the last 3 years, bat ecology and the health of bats in the Champlain Valley. The potential date would be in mid to late January.
2. The Sue Morse, Keeping Tracks, site walk thru the Ferrisburgh Town Forest will be on Jan. 24th from 1-4 pm.
3. Possible Spring workshops- a bird walk, and coyotes.

E. New Business

1. Karen to review the June draft meeting notes, finalize them and post on the Town's website.
1. John Medenwald has decided to resign from the Ferrisburgh Conservation Commission due to his workload demands. He will be missed by all. He was a valued member who shared his knowledge of nature, State and Federal environmental laws, and the history of Ferrisburgh and its residents. Upon retiring we hope he reconsiders.

No other business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next scheduled meeting is undecided.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Pettersen, Secretary