

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Janice Pack

November 28, 2018

Attendees: Roger Lessard, Karen Day, Kate Dean, Stephanie Kokal, Candi Fowler

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairperson Roger Lessard. The following items were addressed:

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes – Roger asked if the minutes had been reviewed. He clarified that the GCC doesn't have a Facebook page of its own; that would be a link to the Wildlife page. Kate moved to accept the minutes as amended; Candi seconded, motion passed. The minutes were accepted.

NRI Review Status – Karen said a couple of the maps were a little bright, but we are almost there. Kate has not been able to view the maps, but will check again as Karen said there was a link on the Dropbox page. Stephanie suggested having someone like Lenny Cornwell look at the history before it was published, but Karen said that he may not recognize the history as it was written. Stephanie will ask him if he's willing. Kate said in 1.4.9 there is a correction needed – it should say "gravel" but it says "sand".

Planning the Perennial Calendar – It looks like it will be too late to get this done for January, but perhaps we can try for February. Roger said that as long as there's snow on the ground, there could be winter tracking. Lots of squirrels! And mice! He asked for other suggestions that could tie in with Winter Fest. Stephanie suggested a Scat Track. She said we could take pictures and have people try to identify them. Kate said that Susie Spikol at the Harris Center is a Scat Specialist, and perhaps Stephanie could reach out to her. Karen said we could partner with the Library to hold something there.

In March, Roger had an Owl Prowl in his notes, and asked if anyone knew any Hooters. Candi will send a message to one of her friends to see if he'd be interested. Getting close to spring, maybe we could do something bee-friendly and involve the children in building bee hotels. This could also be held at the Library. March 24th was suggested. The members will look into a way of making these out of recycled materials.

It was noted there will be no meeting in December; we will meet again on the 4th Wednesday in January.

Riverside Roundup – Roger said at the last rivers committee meeting, people were concerned about the amount of plastics found by the river. Two women have organized and gotten a grant for Plastics Reduction, and would like other communities to do the same. They had a table on election day and gave away bags promoting reducing the use of plastics. He is meeting with one of them, Bonnie, next Thursday to discuss this further. Kate asked what the bags are made of, and Roger said they are

environmentally friendly. Candi said 9 million tons of plastic waste are dumped in the ocean every year.

Regarding the Roadside Roundtrip, Roger is thinking perhaps we'd rather have something ongoing rather than a one-day thing. Kate said there are many creative uses for recycling plastics and she wondered if we could get a grant to set up a project like this. Karen mentioned that she just came across the New England Environmental Grassroots Fund which looks like something we might be able to get a grant from.

Roger said that Stonyfield will take back yogurt cups; Kate said she thinks they would take back anyone's yogurt cups. He wondered if we should involve the Elementary School. Candi asked why we aren't doing more single stream recycling. Roger said it's a buzz word...it actually costs more money. Kate said single stream requires someone to manually sort everything. Roger said we used to have a recycling committee; perhaps we'd like to spin off and form another one.

Going back to the plastic reduction project as a spin off of the roadside round-up, it was suggested that we could alternate, or do the roadside round-up as a kick off and then go to the plastic reduction projects. Perhaps Delay's could be encouraged to use paper bags.

Karen had thought about making a little card out of card stock that said PLEASE DON'T USE PLASTIC STRAWS and have a picture of a turtle with a straw sticking out of its nose. These could be left at local restaurants.

Back to the Roadside Round-up, Roger asked if there were other ideas. Roger said the GCC could adopt a part of the road to maintain; it would be done 4 times a year and the trash is picked up by the State. All liked that idea.

Karen asked if anyone would like to do a little Environmental Fair. Peterborough holds one, and Stephanie suggested we go to theirs first and see how they're hosting it. The next one is scheduled for May 5th.

Candi suggested we focus on submitting our application for the NE Environmental Grassroots Fund and decide what giveaways we might like to fund. Kate was elected to write the grant; she will research the requirements.

Program Suggestions – Everyone wanted to do the Wellwater Testing again. Last year it was done in August. It was decided it might be worth it to ask DES to come down and do their program again. Roger will contact them and see when they're available.

He said free programs we can get from the NH Fish and Game include Black Bear Happenings, Bobcats, or Restoring Brook Trout. Karen wondered if the Loon Program would go over again; Roger said the presenter does different programs but he wouldn't want to do the Loons in particular again right away. He asked all to keep an eye out for programs that could be offered. Stephanie said the Audubon does a free Hawk Program. Roger asked for someone to take on the Programs part, to keep a calendar of what's going on and when. Stephanie offered to take this on. She also suggested that we make a checklist of different places to send out our program dates and information to (the Spirit, the Town website, the Library website, the NHACC, etc.,).

Continuing the Pollinator Project – Roger said he’s been so busy with other things that he didn’t follow through with getting the Black-Eyed Susan’s planted by the railroad bed across from the Historical Society. There was discussion about putting the seeds out now on top of the snow. Candi has milkweed seeds.

The Bee Hotel could be a part of this project.

Other Business:

There being none, Roger made a motion to adjourn; Karen seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be January 23, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janice Pack to Roger Lessard for approval, corrections, distribution, and posting.