

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Janice Pack

January 23, 2019

Attendees: Roger Lessard, Karen Day, Kate Dean, Stephanie Kokal, Candi Fowler, Neal Brown, Carol Irvin. Bev Pietlicki joined the group.

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 for a motion to accept; Candi moved to accept, and Stephanie seconded. All were in favor; motion passed.

NRI Review Status – Karen said that all of the things on the Excel spreadsheet (corrections & additions) are now in a different place and its been taking a long time to review this. She's taken the Word document and highlighted the changes. On the maps, everything is named twice now. This needs to be corrected. There are 2 maps that are still too brightly colored. There is still some research that needs to be done. Stephanie said she'd spoken to Lenny and he's happy to help, but Karen said that she'd found the Town History, and she feels that we need to use a direct quote. She will make a list of what needs to be researched. Roger wants to set a date to get this finished.

ACTION ITEM: Karen said it should be done by the next meeting. (Karen and Stephanie)

Program Suggestions – Well Water Testing & Bee Hotel Workshop - Bev is here to talk about collaborating on some programs. Some library patrons wanted to know more about actual beekeeping, and one of the Trustees mentioned Imagine That Honey. They are a for-profit business, and are willing to present on Saturday, February 23rd at 10:00 AM. Jodi Turner would be the presenter and their website is www.imaginthathoney.com. It was discovered that is the first Saturday of school vacation and may be a bad time to hold it.

Karen wondered what the attendance was on a Saturday morning for programs versus evening programs. Bev said its challenging in the winter; she doesn't feel families with smaller children would come out at night. Karen mentioned tying it in with the Bee Hotel program; that might be better on a Saturday. Different dates were discussed.

ACTION ITEM: Bev will reach out to Jodi and see if she can do it in March.

Bev said that Bruce Dodge had sent her a grant source: Clif Family Foundation. They are thinking about circulating backpacks that would be rigged with binoculars, field guides, first aid kits and lists of things to take on a hike. Bev would like to contact Ted Bonner regarding using the maps he had done but emails to him bounced back. The Committee discussed different resources; Bev said she will write

him a letter. It was recommended that she reach out to Ken Paulsen, too. Roger said the Crotchet Mountain Trails were super easy for kids and they tell a story along the way.

They discussed Owls of New England and a Rattlesnake presentation. Janet Renaud had mentioned a program on bats. These ideas were passed on to Stephanie, who is in charge of programs.

Participation in Winter Fest – Scat Identification - Roger said they don't have anyone to conduct the bee hotel workshop yet, so he wasn't sure if they could do it in March. Candi said she could wing it as long as there is money for supplies. Materials to use for this were discussed. Roger has been collecting ceramic mugs that could be repurposed. The only Saturday in March that Roger has open is March 2nd. Kate thought that would work; 10:00 to 12:00 was suggested.

ACTION ITEM: Bev will confirm in the morning if the Wensburg Room is free on these dates so that Karen can put it in The Spirit

Roger is waiting to hear back regarding a date for water testing. The amount of arsenic in the water was discussed.

The GCC will not be doing anything for Winter Fest; Bev invited all over to the Library which will be used as a warming station, serving hot chocolate. Scat identification was discussed, and Stephanie is willing to participate and lead some sort of scat game.

ACTION ITEM: Roger asked Stephanie to go to the Library tomorrow and work with Bev to finalize something to put in The Spirit.

Modified Roadside Roundup – We will not be sending bags to every household this year. Bags will be available at the Library, Recycling Center, Town Hall and at the store. It was noted that our day should be on the same day as everyone else's. The closest to Earth Day would be the Saturday before Easter. Roger decided that we would do ours on the 27th. Karen liked the competition and giving out prizes. Karen asked about tying in a program on that same day, maybe on plastics recycling. There was a long discussion on whether or not and what to feed the participants.

The Committee decided to try a plastics program at the Library, and a little cook out at the Recycling Center – rewarding anyone who dropped off a bag of trash with a hot dog and a bag of chips. Stephanie will bring a tent in case of rain.

ACTION ITEM – Need to talk to Carol at the Recycling Center to see if they're on board.

Pollinator Project – Conversion of Community Septic System Field to Wildflower Meadow - Roger spoke to Rick McQuade about converting the field to a wildflower meadow next year. Jeremy has a contract to mow the field this year. Rick will contact the septic people to find out what the restrictions are. Once it's done, it won't have to be mowed any more. Kate said it should be mowed every 5 years or so just to maintain it. The fence will come down, and some large boulders will be brought in; blueberry bushes can be planted between them.

Plastics Reduction Project Update – Contoocook North River Branch Advisory Committee of which Roger is a member has designed the recycled bags with fact sheets, bookmarks and stickers. Carol asked if we could have a supply of these for the plastics program to be held at the Library.

ACTION ITEM: Roger will find out if he can get some.

Karen would like to have pictures for the participants to see to really make an impact.

ACTION ITEM - Roger will write up something for The Spirit about the Roadside Round up and the Plastic Recycling program. He will check and see what Bev has going on in April.

Other Business:

Roger had the invoice for the Land Use book, which he has approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 at pm.

The next regular meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be February 27, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

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