

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Michelle Hall

May 22, 2019

Attendees: Roger Lessard, Karen Day, Carol Irvin, Kat Dean, Stephanie Kokal

Absent Members: Candi Fowler

The meeting was called to order 7:30pm by Chairperson Roger Lessard.

Accept or Amend Previous Minutes

Roger motioned to approve minutes as they are which was seconded by Carol. Motion passed.

NRI Review Status

Karen stated that Henry Underwood is has executed the changes that we asked for.. There was some discussion about how many printed copies were agreed to in our contract with SWRPC. It is presumed that there should be a copy for the GCC, planning board and library. Karen suggested the GCC obtain a copy of the contract.

Review GCC portion of 2017 Master Plan, Impaired Waters

Carol was unable to follow up on this.

Perennial Calendar, June & July Activities

The GCC discussed not being able to do the turtle project this June as they are running out of time. Instead, they came up an idea of doing a kayak race involving the Cilley Family Forest in September. The weekends of September 14th and 28th were recommended. Stephanie will get in contact with Ray Cilley to ask about this possibility, and possibly providing the caldron to cook hot dogs again. Stephanie will also contact Lenny Cornwell, from the Historical Society to see if they may want to collaborate with the GCC in this as well.

Review of the Roadside Roundup

Roger suggested that the GCC eliminate the early morning portion, and only offer food from 10:30 -2pm, as it seemed that it wasn't worth being there early. The GCC discussed maybe setting up in a more visible location. Roger stated that they would need to talk to Carol Burgess, Greenfield Recycling Center Supervisor, to see about another set up location, in order to ensure that we do not impede the normal flow of traffic, understanding that we need to be concerned about safety. Roger mentioned an app called Litterati which automatically identifies, counts, and categorizes trash. It will also monitor what items are on the ground, i.e. Dunkin' Donuts cups, Green Mountain cups, etc. Karen recommended that we suggest that people download the app and scan as they are picking up; which could then be quantified and added to the day's total harvest, maybe even have a friendly competition. Everyone agreed that this year's roadside roundup went very well. We will follow up on this before the next roundup.

Report- Reynolds Field Easement Monitoring

Roger waited at the meeting house until 7:10 AM, but no one showed up. So, he decided not to walk the property on that day. He suggested that we reschedule the walk in the fall, maybe October, without a bird watching element included. We will simply let the owner know, and not advertise to the public.

Programs- Partnering with SML on Ben Kilham Bear Program

Roger explained the program and what Ben Kilham does with the orphaned bear cubs. The GCC discussed that Beverly from the library is about at the end of her program budget. Roger suggested that GCC pick up the \$350 program cost, while SML covers the mileage. Beverly has a number of dates available in September, and will offer those dates during the week to him, and let him choose from them.

Pollinator Project Meadow Park Update

Roger spoke with Rick Edmunds at Edmunds' Hardware in Antrim re the cost of 6 mil black plastic. It would cost around \$1,000 to cover 1/3 of the field. The GCC discussed not using the plastic, instead having someone York rake the ground and planting wildflower seeds in September. Seed will be about \$500 for the 1/3 area. Kate is going to look into getting seeds for free through different seed companies. DPW Roads manager has offered the use of town equipment, excluding vehicles, for this project. The GCC discussed several different types of native wild flowers, plants, and bushes which could be used. The dilapidated fence should remain in place until we have something to install in its place. It was determined that this property is not good for blueberries due to them liking to have wet roots. We may also be able to acquire plants from the state nursery for free. Karen suggested getting a few things that bloom at different times so that there is always something in bloom. Viburnum, honeysuckle, lilac, Rugosa rose, may all be suitable for replacing the fence -Kate is looking to see who has these. We would need to improve the soil for any of these plants. We envision spacing plants 6 feet apart with a boulder placed between each one. DPW Buildings & Grounds manager Rick McQuade would be the best candidate to assist us because he could bring a machine and help with this. The GCC agreed to not use the plastic after Kate's explanation. Kate suggested that we only plant 2/3 of the field with seed where the grass is since that seems to be better soil and less sand. Other people have many different plants that they may be willing to share. Karen suggested to put something in the Spirit asking for left overs to be donated. First step would be to find out about seed sources, then rake the property first and have Jeremy stop mowing. The autumn olive can be removed anytime, but can wait, since the resulting trench would make it easy to plant whatever takes its place. Karen will ask Rick to help, but we will have to go by his schedule.

Well Water Testing Update

August 8th for the presentation at the library. August 11th will be the collection date 1-3pm? Need to make people understand that, due to the need to refrigerate the samples, those are the times. Have them bring the samples to the meetinghouse. Need to remind people to follow the directions.

Plastics Reduction Project

The bill to ban single-use plastic bags was ruled as inexpedient to legislate (ITL) in the state senate.

Other Business

Motion to adjourn by Roger seconded by Carol. 8:48 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be on June 26, 2019 at 7:30pm.