



**Underhill Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2024
In Person @ Town Hall & Virtual GoToMeeting**

Present: Karen McKnight, Betsy Chapek, Patrick Lamphere, Laurie Graham

Guests: Penny Miller, Scott Deyo, Jaryd Krisher

6:30pm Welcome and Adjustments to the Agenda

- Karen McKnight welcomes all and leads the in-person and virtual meeting.
- Karen adds Green Up Day Flyer Discussion to the agenda from Penny.

6:31pm Public Comment: No discussion.

6:35pm Approval March 18, 2024 Minutes

- Betsy moves to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes of the UCC. Trinity seconds. No discussion. Minutes are approved by a vote of 4-0.

6:36pm UCC Policies and Procedures

- Karen changed the date of the Rules of Procedure form to 2024. Laurie moves to approve the updated document with the new date. Betsy Seconds. Policies and Procedures are approved by a vote of 4-0.

6:37 pm Crane Brook Conservation District

- Trail Maintenance Update:** Karen and Penny discuss what they noticed about CBCD. The town crew may use machinery to remove tires found. Penny confirms that at Green Up Day does not accept tires that aren't found along roadsides ie. whole sets. They note that Rim Trail signage was vandalized; shot at, or off, the trees. Discussion includes the no parking sign on the Irish Settlement side; wondering how people can park to access the trails. Karen said Brad was going to go up and walk and [Karen will ask Brad about the parking](#). Group noticed some trash in the area of Irish Settlement. Anton Kelsey and the recreation committee cleared some of the trees from the main trail up from the kiosk. [Betsy will make a dog on leash sign for use during bird nesting season](#); ovenbirds, grouse, thrush will benefit from this. Trails are generally in good condition, and the group may need to go out with more blue signs in the future.
- MMU Service Day May 3:** Penny and Karen will be at the CBCD for service day, Friday, May 3. There may be a group from the high school. The contact person is Anton Kelsey.

6:54 pm Update Events

- Bird Outing on May 11th at 8am.** Other birding outing on September 7th or 8th at 10am. [Laurie will create a registration for the Bird Outing](#). Maeve has seen hawks at CBCD. [Laurie will also post the link to FPF](#). [Betsy will report back about the registration limit](#).
- Green Up Day is May 4.** The town will be having a barbeque at the Town Garage. [Karen will post to FPF](#) about getting bags so people can pick up early. Penny and Karen ask if there is something at the Rt.15 fire station, Karen says we will need to ask the town. Flyers on jumping worms, ticks, bears, monarchs and poison parsnip will be in the box to prevent wind from blowing away. [Karen will invite Don Tobi and how to measure a big tree](#). Penny and Betsy will be working on the letterhead. Group

would like to hand out a list of events and something about how to get in touch or join the conservation commission. [Laurie will reach out to Brad about the potential of a conservation email address.](#)

- c. **Invasive Species Workshop: Jumping Worm:** Penny suggests combining forces with the DRML Jumping Worm Workshop. Tabled for the moment.
- d. **Plant Sale:** Penny discusses plant swaps in the age of jumping worms. The best method would be to ask people donating plants to clean off roots and wrap in wet newspaper, and bring them to a processing area where the UCC would rinse the roots, fold them into newspaper, tag them and transfer them as bare root. Without this method, we risk the spread of jumping worms. Group decides the UCC will not be able to hold the plant sale with proper jumping worm precautions. Group discusses heritage abenaki seeds and how the UCC could grow seedlings in the future. Group discusses next year, the UCC could put energy into a new version of the plant sale and begin planning in January.
- e. **Seeing the Forest for The Trees: Vermont's Working Landscape & Forest Economy:** Jericho Conservation Commission is promoting a 39 minute documentary on the forest economy. Several loggers in VT are interviewed and the story shows how important wood products are and the difficulties they have with their operations. There will be pizza and Don Tobi and Ethan Tapper will be there for Q&A. Sabina (of the JCC) would like to collaborate with the UCC for publicity. Saturday, April 27 from 5-7pm at the Community Center in Jericho.

7:24 pm Other Items

- a. **Brainstorming:** Penny and Laurie met to discuss what the Town Plan has written for the Conservation Commission specifically. They aligned those with the UCC Brainstorming list. At the next meeting, Penny and Laurie will share more information about the Strategic Plan Brainstorming.
- b. **Logo & Letterhead:** Penny and Betsy are meeting about this.
- c. **Mapping Committee:** Penny has been doing a lot with the Natural Resources Inventory, working on the wildlife sightings. Penny would like to send out emails to people. Laurie discusses the Google Form and suggests the use of iNaturalist, which Arrowwood is using.
- d. **Open Studio at School House:** Patrick has not spoken with John Connell but will likely display crafts and talk about the traditional way of making and using them. Patrick's work is featured on Facebook by VT Abenaki Association and he has two objects in Vermont State welcome centers. Penny discusses educational event lists, even if the UCC isn't sponsoring the event. Underhill Conservation Commission flyers could broaden interest at other events Patrick does.
- e. **New Other Items:** Penny suggests that at the beginning of every meeting the group conducts a 10 minute educational segment. Group is interested in this idea.

7:51pm Public Comment: Jaryd just checking on the website, anywhere there is a mission statement or manual on what the UCC is all about. Penny replies that the UCC is working on a 5 year plan so we can have specifics. Jaryd would be interested in joining the commission. Scott also would like to receive the agenda and information about the UCC and they both share email addresses with Karen. [Karen will send out the agenda to Jaryd and Scott.](#)

7:56 pm Adjournment

- Laurie moves to adjourn the meeting. Betsy seconds. Meeting is adjourned by a vote of 4-0.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.