



**Underhill Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2024
In Person @ Town Hall & Virtual GoToMeeting**

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

Guests: Penny Miller

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.

6:35pm Public Comment: No discussion.

6:35pm Green Up Day Flyer Discussion

- Penny discusses that at the last Green Up Day, the UCC's flyers and Penny's Jumping Worm flyers were out and kept getting blown around in the wind. Penny suggests an acrylic frame holder for flyers that could be screwed down on 2x4's that could be easily transported. Then Penny was unsure about the plastic use and suggested a wooden letter organizer. Some laminated items with a binder ring. Laminated flyers there for viewing and a wooden letter organizer that could be labeled to easily grab the matching pamphlet. Betsy appreciates the consideration of wood vs. plastic; great with index key on the side, wondering about storage and moving it about How often do we take flyers and where are we moving them to. The wooden holder can hold and organize 10 different organizers. Karen suggests they may let us store it at the town hall, Penny could also take it and store it with the Jumping Worm flyers. Betsy believes we should give it a try and thanks Penny for her construction prowess.

6:42 pm UCC Strategic Plan & Brainstorming Session

- Laurie introduces the voting page of the spreadsheet. Penny shares the Appendix B of the Town Plan that comes up with Conservation Strategies. Discussion includes omitting some of the voting questions. Group decides to vote on the following questions: What is your level of interest in being personally involved with this project? How feasible is it for the CC (as a group with/without partners) to actually get this done?, OVERALL, How big a priority should this be for the CC to engage in in the next five years?. Penny mentions question three and Karen notes it is her impression it is part of the 5 year plan. Trinity notes it is year 1, year 3, year 5 and different seasons of the year, because there are a lot of ideas here, we can't jump on everything all at once. Penny asks if Jens mentioned reviewing it annually or how often, Karen replies that we will need to pick a few things that we are passionate about, and start working on it. Penny asks if it makes sense to review it one month every year, sometime before the budget is due, Karen agrees that once we are in the swing of it that will be helpful. Not all of the items on our list will need to be attached to the budget.

[Action Items: The group will review the 3 questions for each of the new UCC ideas and vote in the Google Sheet. Laurie will get the final totals to everyone.](#)

7:15 pm Educational Events

- Karen put in money for another birding outing this year. Betsy mentions we decided against Bridget due to the cost and considered inviting a local expert. [Betsy will talk to Evergreen or Kim about birding in the spring.](#) (May)

- Vernal pools workshop/presentation. [Karen will contact the vernal pools speaker.](#) (April)
- [Karen would like to invite Ethan for another speaker series](#); he is doing a new workshop on bird friendly forests.
- Karen and Penny discuss inviting Stacy to present on rivers. Could check with her calendar, maybe in March. Penny asks how frequently we do the educational events. [Penny will talk to Sandy about getting in touch with Stacy about river presentation.](#)
- Trinity mentions getting in touch with the schools regarding the monarch projects. (July) Awareness campaign prior to July.
 - Penny discusses bare root shrubs/trees and sales in March, Lamoille is last and Winooski is taking orders. Not even sell them ourselves but make people aware of them, maybe in our website, ties in to pollinator effort.
- Patrick mentions that there won't be a Fred Wiseman presentation. He thought last year it would be cool to have folks do a rain dance and presentation about it but it has been hard to keep people in the group. Patrick mentions he may be doing an Abenaki art exhibition at the schoolhouse in May through the Open Studio day; Alnobaiwi does some sessions - if there is anything that is done with gardening, nature, art, Pat will keep the group posted. It seems like there is a tremendous interest in native american culture at this point; Penny suggests maybe the library would have interest in traditional Abenaki plantings or in Moore Park.
- Green Up Day is May 4th. [Karen will talk to Brad about what we can offer for Green Up Day on both sides of town.](#)
- Betsy discusses film series as a long range happening in the fall. Penny mentions Jericho Conservation Commission does film series and it might be nice to collaborate; [Penny will contact them.](#) Betsy says later in the fall will be best.
- Discussion about a UCC letterhead or logo for pamphlets. Group decides to use what we have had in the past.
- Penny asks if we need to communicate about any of this before the March 11 meeting. [Group decides that we will come to the March meeting with dates and official information for educational events.](#)

7:39 pm Town Meeting Planning

- Update everyone and remind them we have a nice page on the Town of Underhill website. Hoping to have some of the maps up to bring to town meeting.
- To contribute to the effort to the mapping that is going on in the town to identify forest blocks, wildlife corridors, wetlands, consultants are working on field work and field studies to make sure what comes across on ANR maps is valid and confirm things like wildlife corridors that may not show up. One of the ways the consultants have gotten a lot of information is through townfolk, in terms of wildlife. The maps are available online, Library, Town Hall, Jacobs, give the location of where they have sighted bobcats, foxes, etc. so they have an idea of where they live and how they travel. Hopefully that will correspond to the natural communities (ie. mast trees locations).
- At town meeting, is the Conservation Commission going to have flyers, etc. Karen replies that we normally do a card table and Karen will do some flyers. Betsy has a whole box of flyers. Penny asks if there needs to be a table and if someone needs to man this. Betsy will bring the card table, backdrop from the past and flyers. Betsy will update the backdrop from the past. Penny confirms about manning the table; Karen discusses that people will be around for town meeting but it may not be manned the entire time. [Trinity will get some monarch photos for the table to Betsy.](#)

7:54 pm Approval of Minutes

- Betsy moves to approve the January 17, 2024 minutes of the UCC. Trinity seconds. No discussion. Minutes are approved by a vote of 5-0.

7:56 pm Adjournment

- Patrick moves to adjourn the meeting. Trinity seconds. Meeting is adjourned by a vote of 5-0.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.