

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
November 11, 2019
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Betsy Chapek, Laurie Graham, Pat Lamphere, Daphne Tanis, Peter Hiskes, Dan Steinbauer,

Guests: David Demarest

Absent: Nancy McRae, Amy Golodetz, Steven Webster,

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed all and led meeting.

Public Comment: None

Approval Minutes: October 14, 2019 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Time: 6:35pm - 7:44pm

Crane Brook Conservation District:

- Members of Conservation Commission & Recreation Committee met on 11/3 for Rim Trail restoration project. Betsy & Matt Chapek removed discarded stove that was on the trail. Nancy and Howie McRae placed blue trail markers on Rim Trail. Anton Kelsey, Steve Webster and Karen McKnight worked on stones for crossing a wet area. Bikers and hikers were present on the property.
- Blue trail markers are done, future plans for other colored markers for access from Irish Settlement area. Some GPS trail coordinates have been made. Recreation Committee has future plans to create a trail map for area (reminders about wording for private landowners, nesting birds, dogs and park hours.) Betsy will check in with Nancy McRae and Recreation Committee to help with the creation of the map.
- Pat will check and collect signs that were placed for Cyanobacteria bloom this past summer. Will re-use signs if needed in the future. Pat will also recommend to town that there is a flow of water in this area through possible trench/culvert with goal of deterring future algal blooms.
- David Demarest discovered 2 boulders placed on egress to his property on the morning of 11/11/19. CC members didn't know about their placement, but will check with town.
- Concern about stream bank stabilization for future spring floods. Knotweed rhizomes could spread if bank erodes in flood. David Demarest recommends 4in stone to help stabilize bank.
 - Mill Brook and Browns River area experiencing similar erosion and invasive species Asian Bittersweet is prominent in this area.

Capitol & Other Expenses Budget:

- \$4,000 budget requested. \$500 to go to Educational Series, money will go to supplies and specifically tools to maintain trails, contractors. UCC has money from previous plant sales.
- Peter Hiskes mentions Charitable Grant Fund through Outdoor Gear Exchange. More information during next application period this spring.

Natural Resources Planning

- Pat Lamphere has been working on a rough draft of the Historical and Cultural Resources page of Underhill Town Plan. Cultural connection to Conservation Commission & Recreation Committee.

Winter Educational Series

- Betsy will follow up with David Pearson, coyote presenter, and Andrea Shortsleeve wildlife presenter. Coyote presentation this winter, wildlife this spring.
- Betsy suggests a mini-series of movie nights. Upbeat films showing beauty of natural areas. Betsy is working with Erick Vanlck at the library to research licensing costs to play these publically. Some movie suggestions include, Rivers & Tides, Biggest Little Farm, Planet Earth, Final Straw: Food, Earth, Happiness.
- Daphne Tanis will contact VT Fish & Wildlife, Tom Rogers, to set up presentation on beavers. Include information about property/infrastructure, strategies for living with beaver (like baffle on Irish Settlement), testimonials

Invasives Species Task Force:

- Anyone can be a member of the task force. Task Force will not have voting rights or need a quorum. Questions will go to Underhill Conservation Commission.
- Goal is to work on invasives and hear perspectives from all in town and welcome more members than the nine member seats allowed for a town conservation commission.

Other Information

- UCC presented slideshow on the work that has been done to control invasive species, specifically knotweed. Slideshow will be linked on Front Porch Forum and is available on the Underhill town website.
- David Demarest concern that the slideshow presented only the negative aspects of invasive species.
- Sarah Lourie of Cambridge Conservation Commission sent an email about trying to resurrect the Madonna Vasa Trail.

Adjourn at 7:44pm.