



**Underhill Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020
Remote Meeting**

Present: Karen McKnight, Steve Webster, Nancy McRae, Daphne Tanis, Betsy Chapek, Pat Lamphere, Peter Hiskes, Laurie Graham

Absent: Amy Golodetz

Guests: David Demarest

6:30 p.m. Welcome Karen McKnight welcomed all and led the meeting.

6:31 p.m. Public Comment None

6:32 p.m. Approval of Minutes: 5/6/20, 5/13/20, 7/13/20

Approval of 5/6/20 Special Meeting Minutes with changes: Betsy Chapek motions to approve the minutes and Nancy McRae seconds. Committee approves the minutes by a vote of 8-0.

Approval of 5/13/20 Regular Meeting Minutes with changes: Steve Webster motions to approve the minutes and Pat Lamphere seconds. Discussion: Update to “present” list to include Peter Hiskes. Committee approves the minutes by a vote of 8-0.

Approval of 7/13/20 Regular Meeting Minutes: Pat Lamphere motions to approve the minutes and Nancy McRae seconds. Committee approves the minutes by a vote of 8-0.

6:35 p.m. Plant Sale/Silent Auction: September 12, 2020

Daphne Tanis and Betsy Chapek present and discuss the plan for September 12’s plant sale and silent auction. After discussion, the UCC decides that the plant sale/silent auction can happen in a shorter amount of time, from 9am-10am. There will be a welcome table and one-way direction for all guests. Masks are required. The plant sale follows the normal format (with masks and distancing) and will conclude quickly. Then, guests can move onto the silent auction area. There is a bid sheet for each item. The standards for 6-feet apart will affect plant set up and how many rows of plants.

Daphne and Betsy will measure the area of the parking lot. Daphne will alter the diagram, and prepare the diagram to share on FPF and make copies. Betsy will share the “blurb” and Laurie will post in advance to FPF, including the blurb, diagram and guidelines at least twice. Daphne will check to make sure we can enter the Town Hall to borrow the tables. Other action items are on the “Day of Event Plan” document created by Daphne. Everyone from the UCC is there to set up tables/tarps/vendor tents at 8am and break-down after the event.

7:10 p.m. Underhill Maps

Karen McKnight discusses the natural resource maps of the town that Karen and Amy looked at with 3 Planning Commission members: Pat Lamphere, Sandy Wilmot and Val Stori. From the ANR website, Ryan Oches helped to create the maps and will make changes to maps to include conserved land including the Crane Brook Conservation District and Tomasi Meadow. Maps show wetlands, rare physical landscapes, forest blocks related to Act 151, connectivity blocks, vernal pools and rare species. This connects to the connectivity training the commission did with surrounding towns, Richmond and Bolton. Study maps to identify the locations, many connectivity routes coincide with main roads. Discussion continues about how we can contribute to the work the Planning Commission is doing in mapping natural resources and identifying alternative energy areas.

7:20 p.m. Crane Brook Conservation District

Steve Webster discusses that the most recent invasives work party (last Sunday) at the Crane Brook Conservation District was well-attended with 7 people arriving to help. Betsy Chapek notes that the Shearer sisters, who grew up on the property, attended the work party and is a positive connection with landowners near Crane Brook. All patches of knotweed were worked on and instead of just cutting they were also able to dig some areas to remove rhizomes. Steve Webster notes that there was more growth and the section on the hardware cloth is in the shade and just not growing enough to be an effective test plot. Steve Webster has purchased and received the ¼ inch hardware cloth. **The next step is to set up a time and group to install the new ¼ hardware cloth.** [Goutweed](#) was cut at the CBCD, and was only seen in one spot, just at the beginning of the parking area, but removal will take more work. Karen McKnight suggests cardboard, then black plastic with pins, for about 2 years.

Steve Webster discusses the UCC budget and asks about purchasing tools we need to help people attack invasives in general and suggests 1 or 2 weed wrenches (Uprooter ~\$200) and a Parsnip Predator. Karen McKnight suggests additional loppers and clippers. Steve suggests two weed wrenches so that people can borrow them, like a lending library. Discussion continues about where to store the tools, suggested location at the Town Pond shed, if it is secure, or at a UCC member's home. **Karen McKnight will ask Jim Beebe-Woodard or the Selectboard about storing a town-purchased tool at a member's home, and also about the possibility of a lending library for invasive species removal tools. Karen will also look for the list of tools created for the Selectboard and will send it to Steve to make into a Google Doc where all members of the UCC can edit to add their ideas.**

Signage at the Crane Brook Conservation District to be discussed at the next meeting. Amy Golodetz has some information about that. How to move forward with the plans for the kiosk.

Aton Kelsey spoke with Karen McKnight and suggested a structure for people to cross the Crane Brook and Anton Kelsey brought other items, like the kiosk to the Selectboard. Anton Kelsey will be invited to the next UCC meeting.

The meadow at CBCD has not been mowed but has been driven over and one stake has been broken. **Suggested placements of higher stakes that stick up above the grass: if purchased, Nancy McRae has the blue paint. Nancy will email Anton and ask about mowing.**

8:05 p.m. Other Items Debrief the plant sale/silent auction at next meeting.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

8:08 p.m. Adjourn Nancy McRae moves to adjourn the meeting, Betsy Chapek seconds. The meeting is adjourned by a vote of 6-0.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.