

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023
Town Hall and on Zoom
7:00 pm

**Maggie Citarella, Dave McNally, Pete Demick, Roel Boumans,
Claudia Mucklow, Sharon Mount, and Susan Blood.**

Guests:

Barbara Russ, Dean Williams, Charles Russell, and Frank Tenney.

Action Items:

- Claudia will be in touch with Aaron at Arrowwood Environmental to see about coming to our next meeting!

1. Meeting Call to Order

2. Nature Notes

-Otter!

3. Agenda Additions / Deletions

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Administration (Minutes, DRB Review Assignments, Year-End Review)

Nov Meeting Minutes - Motion made to approve, seconded, and approved.

DRB Review Team - Claudia and Sharon were reviewers and an application came in today. They will look at it!

They will stay on! Motion made for Claudia and Sharon to stay on as DRB application reviewers, seconded, and approved.

Year End Review - Last year we looked over what we'd done. Let's do that again! (from the Note-taker - I know I missed some things!)

Priorities for this year:

Working on a new habitat map, putting more cameras up, submitting wording for LUR amendments, working with the Lewis Creek Association, and the new website with Christina.

- Pete has put up the cameras in more places! They are being used!
- The new website with Christina sort of slid off the radar. But we have a new website through the town.
- We did an event with the Lewis Creek Association at the Library.
- Vermont Master Naturalist program - last spring - it kind of fell through. Maybe another time!
- Mushroom walks with Meg Madden! That was fun and easy!
- Thanks to Maggie C. for keeping us on track this year!
- Good interaction with the PC and the DRB this year.
- We joined the Champlain Valley Conservation Committee - good to be connected to other towns.
- DRB review going well - we've been reviewing all the applications. CCC members are getting more comfortable with that.
- Providing advisory info to other opinions - for example we signed a letter regarding the town garage.
- We were invited to be part of the Steering Committee for Villages Town Master Planning Process.
- We support the Charlotte Invasive Collaborative.
- We had 1 article in the Charlotte News! Woohoo! Thank you, Sharon!
- Facebook and Instagram - we have been more regular this year!
- Events with the Library.

Looking ahead to 2024 - new priorities?

Let's focus on getting grants for a new Habitat Map.

And continue what we've been doing!

6. Town Planning and Development Review (DRB and PC Updates, Habitat Map)

The DRB Updates - There is a new application which has to do with the Old Brick Store.

PC Updates - Maggie is sending the members of the CCC the steering committee meeting minutes. The PC is putting off the Thompsons Point stuff because they are trying to get a more accurate map. They will continue in January!

Maybe we can reach out to the PC to see what they think of the amendments we sent them. Maybe even in the public comment section of their meeting? For the new Town Plan there are lots of sections that we can have input into!

Arrowood Environmental - Claudia reached out to Aaron. He is happy to join us, but would prefer Zoom. Asked for presentation about the process and methods to make a new map. Maybe he can come to the January meeting? Claudia will ask!

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Dave is working on a timeline in terms of updating the map - he put it in the CCC folder. Perhaps it can be reviewed at the next meeting! The first step is to see when the state is going to update their maps. He will send that document to all of us! Thank you!

7. Outreach (Events, Trails, Rt. 7 Culvert)

Kate Kelly - are we interested in doing a water quality presentation in Feb or March? Or a presentation about stormwater and climate resilience! Let's say March!

Audubon - Maggie reached out and they have lots of ideas for possible topics - pollinators, birds, at Philo Ridge Farm - rotational grazing and soil health, Bird and bee friendly farming. Tree planting demo. Raven Ridge, Hawk Watch at Mt. Philo.

March - Check in with Meg Maddon to set up a walk in early summer.

Claudia - they are making a pollinator garden in the wildlife refuge! They also got a grant to restore bird habitat to attract warblers!

Are we trying to increase locations for birds? With the Audubon Society, it's just nice to have events outside and give people exposure to us.

Something for Earth Day? There are so many groups - can we get them all together? Piggy back on Music on the green? There are about 9 groups that we have synergies with! An open house with a speaker? Movie night?

Speakers - Bill McKibben, Sue Morse, Joe Roman? Maybe Ben Kilham - Bear rehab in Maine?

Is Sustainable VT still doing Green drinks?

Ethan Tapper is coming to our Feb Meeting! Think of questions!

Tree Warden - Mark Dillenbeck - would be great to have an update on Ash trees!

Cameras - spent a month at the Town Pound. Vermont Master Naturalist Program wants to borrow them. What's the best way for them to borrow them? We have to make sure they know how to use them! And will they provide their own cards and batteries?

Maggie will work on a form for lending them out. If lost or stolen they accept responsibility to replace them.

Rt 7 Wildlife Culvert Crossing - after the holiday Claudia will get in someone from VTRANS.

8. Adjourn

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded and passed.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Blood.

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