

**Charlotte Conservation Commission**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**January 23, 2024**  
**Town Hall and on Zoom**  
**7:00 pm**

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

**Guests:**

**Charles Russell and Aaron Worthly**

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**Action Items:**

- Susan bring card for Mel! And call her!
- Claudia will ask for information about the Conservation Commission Fund.

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**1. Meeting Call to Order**

**2. Agenda Additions / Deletions**

Earth Day!

**3. Public Comment**

None.

**4. Discussion with Arrowwood Environmental - Aaron Worthly**

The map we use now was finished in 2008 - Forest, aquatic, persistent shrub land and linkage habitat. We are exploring our options for updating this map!

- Arrowwood has been around since 2001. They've worked with 30+ towns doing some kind of natural resources inventory.
- The company has evolved as technology and laws have changed.
- Started out with wetland mapping - still do that! This led to mapping natural habitats etc. Natural Community Mapping leads to habitat mapping that is more accurate.

- With Act 171 they've been focusing more on Forest Blocks over the last 4 or 5 years. Natural Community Mapping can be a foundation for that.
- They've worked in S Burlington and Shelburne, which are both forest block projects. They helped the towns prioritize the forest blocks for protection.
- They just wrapped up a project with Monkton which included forest blocks, habitat etc!
- They tailor what they do to what each town needs. They have worked for the town of Charlotte and also for applicants.
- The state is mapping forest blocks as well which is based on mid 2000's landcover data. They will look at the most current sources they can find and then also get out on the ground to capture recent land use changes that might not be captured on a map. Want to be as fine grained and detailed as possible.
- The state is updating their forest map habitats. It's more detailed but is definitely on a statewide scale.

Questions for Aaron:

Would our current map be used for building the next map? Probably not. They would use their own methods to make a new map. Currently working with Jericho on forest blocks - they have a similar zoning and natural resource overlay.

Would a new map include the categories we have now? Yes, they can do that and also talk with us about other possible ways to do that.

What does the on the ground work look like? They would use the landcover classification done in 2016 by UVM Spacial Analysis Lab. They use LiDAR - an aircraft flying over land shooting lasers at the ground and then the plane analyzes what comes back. Gives lots of information! Several pulses per foot! Very cool! Then they drive around and look and make sure the proper adjustments are being made. But this on the ground checking is done from a car.

Can they map linkage habitat? They've been modeling corridors between forest blocks.

How long does it take to do this work? A Comprehensive Natural Resources Map takes about a year. This is all done from the road because going onto properties takes alot of time. If it's just forest blocks, then 6 months. The computer mapping happens during the winter and then the ground truthing happens in summer!

How often do you update projects for towns? Worked most for Warren but they haven't gone back and redone a big map like this!

If a town wants a comprehensive Natural Resources Inventory how long does that take? 2 years or so.

What are typical outputs or deliverables? Written report, raw GIS data and some kind of a map. Can also create customized online mapping tools.

Do they use Map Viewer? - The Regional Planning Commission will take the data Arrowood gives them and put it in their system!

If we gave you the old map is it possible to do a change analysis? Yes- that would be an

interesting exercise.

Standard Report has a lot of information! We probably don't need more than that!

Range of costs \$15 -30,000.

Usually the Planning Commission is involved either as the primary contact or as a member of an oversight committee. The work is done and then it's incorporated into the Town Plan.

Where can we get \$ for this kind of project? The Municipal Planning Grants is a good source. Some towns have used their AARPA money.

Arrowood tries to map beyond the boundaries somewhat because in terms of animals and natural resources, the town lines are meaningless!

## **5. Administration (Budget, Minutes, DRB Review Assignments)**

Budget- The Selectboard took \$600 from our budget request because we have money in the Conservation Commission Fund. We didn't know about this! What is this fund for? Maybe we need to speak to the Selectboard about it. Perhaps we can work with the town to submit a proposal for a grant for an updated map since it helps the Town Plan? We need to know why this fund was set up. Can we just put the 15K or 30 K in our budget for next year? Claudia will ask Mary for more information!

Minutes - motion made, approved and seconded.

Claudia and Sharon have been doing the last 2 months of DRB reviewing. Dave and Maggie will do the DRB review until the next meeting. Thank you!

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

There is a Steering Committee meeting this Thursday from 7 to 8 about what people want to see in the villages. There is a general survey.

Vision Letter - we sent it almost a year ago to the Planning Commission. Or did we send it last August? The Planning Commission is busy working on non-conforming structures. Still want to tweak our letter for the paper!

David worked on a timeline for a getting a new map made!

We would work with the town to apply for a [Municipal Planning Grant](#) from the state. If we get it then you need to show a few estimates from a few companies and then depending which company is chosen, they give us money. It could be all or some of the requested amount.

We probably can draft a scope of work now that we've heard from Jesse Moor and Aaron. Let's say by the end of March! Roel and David will work on this! YAY!

Also Kate Kelly shared the RFP for Hinesburg.

## **7. Outreach (Water Quality Funding, Events, Trails)**

Water Quality Funding - Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission - we need to do project scope and amount. Larry is looking for an intern to help with this work. We feel like we don't have extra capacity to help with this and there is probably a better group to work with. So thank you but we are at capacity! 😊

March 28th with LCA for a joint event at the library!

Audubon - Hawk Watch!

Earth Day is April 22! Maggie wrote lots of groups. Maybe we should have a planning meeting with the other groups. How about an Earth Day Treasure hunt? We would need to warn a meeting!

Motion made that we accept Trail Camera Form as is... seconded, accepted!

## **8. Adjourn (Next Meeting is 2/27)**

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded and passed.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Blood.